



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts**

**Release**

**Subject:** Fire at U.S. military Personnel  
Records Center 1-7/12/1973

FOIPA

DO NOT DESTROY

SERIALS all 52-4856

PRIOR TO 11/2009

FILE NUMBER 190-SL-188156

KEEP AS TOP SERIAL IN FILE

NOTE: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Indices: ☐ Negative ☐ See below

Subject's name and aliases

**National Personnel Record  
Center 9700 Page  
Possible Arson  
7-12-73**

Character of case

**DGP-Arson Possible**

Complainant

**Pd**

Complaint received

☐ Personal

☒ Telephonic

Date **7-12-73** Time **0100 am**

Address of subject

Complainant's address and telephone number

Subject's Description	Race	Sex	Height	Hair	Build	Birth date and Birthplace
	Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Weight	Eyes	Complexion	
	Scars, marks or other date					

Facts of complaint

**[redacted] called this office and stated that the National Record Center was on fire and the entire 6th floor was ablaze and the local fire dept.'s was fighting the blaze, the local Pd requested FBI assistance in the fact that they suspect possible arson**

b7C

**[redacted] notified**

**ASAC  
SAC**

"  
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52-4856-1  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
JUL 12 1973

b7C

Action Recommended

(Agent)

FBI

Date:

~~NR 84~~ SL PLAIN

IMMEDIATE 7-12-73 VXJ

TO DIRECTOR

FROM ST LOUIS (52-NEW)

~~5092~~; UNSUB MAJOR FIRE NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORD CENTER-MILITARY,  
NPRC (NPRC-M), DGP- POSSIBLE ARSON, OO-SL

12112:15 AM INSTANT DATE FIRE DISCOVERED BY FEDERAL PROTECTIVE  
SERVICE (FPS) ON TOP FLOOR OF CAPTIONED RECORD CENTER. WHICH CONTAIN  
30-TO 40 MILLION RECRRECORDS IN CUSTODIAN POSSESSION <sup>of</sup> GENERAL  
SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA), WORLD WAR ONE, WORLD WAR TWO, POST WORLD  
WAR TWO AND ALL OF DISCHARGED AIR FORCE PERSONNEL .

FIRE PRESENTLY BURNING OUT OF CONTROL ON SIX FLOOR , REMAINING  
BUILDING SUFFERING EXTENSIVE SMOKE AND SOOSOME WATER DAMAGE.

FBIS OFFICE LOCATED THIS SITE NOT THUS FAR EFFECTED BY ACTIVE  
FIRE DAMAGED BUT IS SUBJECT TO SMOKE DAMAGE.

NO EMPLOYEES OTHER THAN CUSTODIANS WORKING AT LOAOCATION AOF  
END PAGE ONE

52-4856-2

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JUL 12 1973	
FBI-ST. LOUIS	
RD	

Special Agent in Charge

Sent 307/A M Per 3



F B I

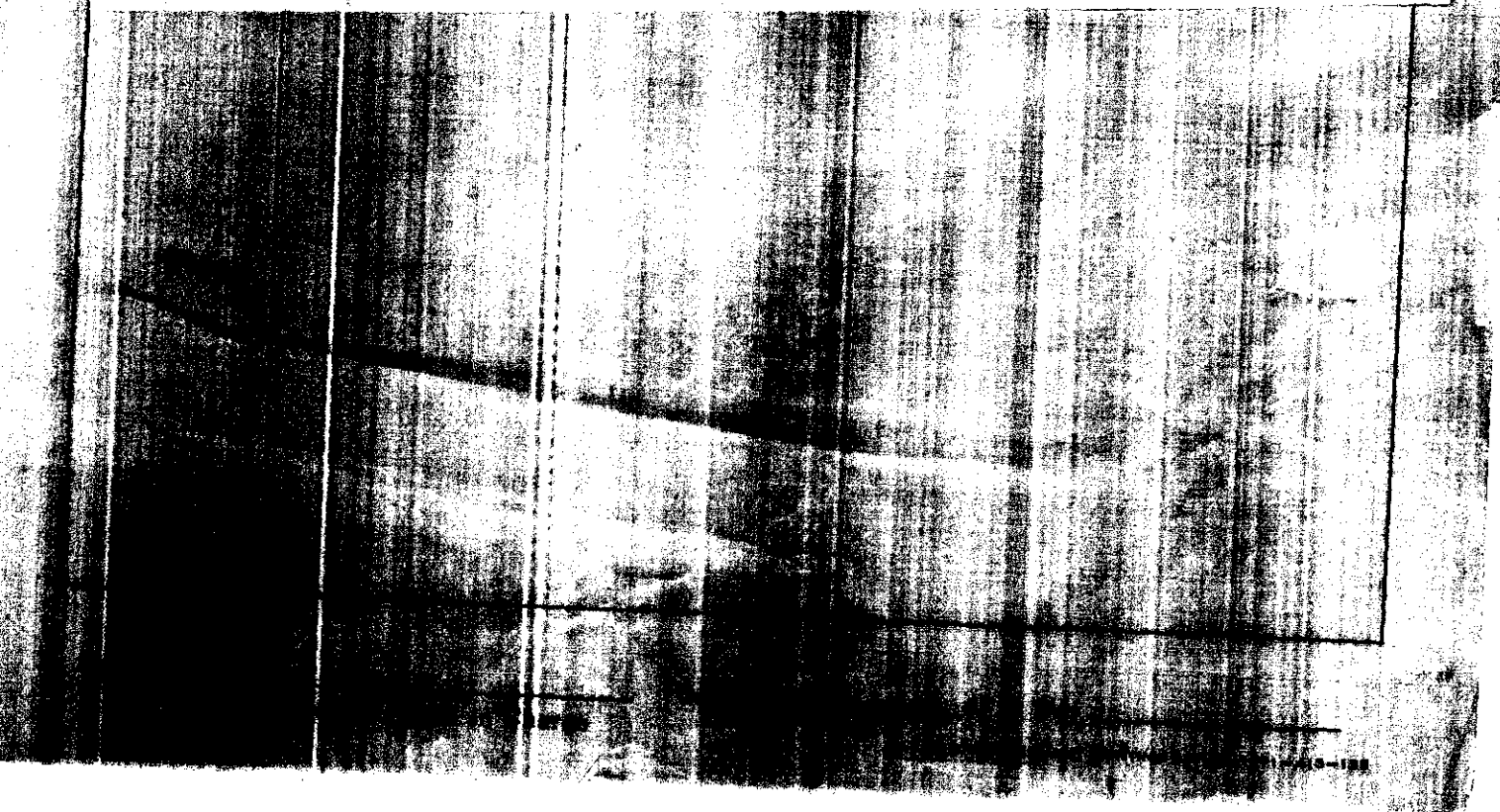
Date:

PAGE TWO

~~52~~-NEW

FIRE WHEN FIRE BROKE OUT. NO INJURIES REPORTED SO FAR AND NO IMMEDIATE SUSPECTS SHOULD ARSON BE DETERMINED AS CAUSE. SCENE OF FIRE CAN'T BE REACHED DUE TO SEVERITY OF FIRE, BUT ARSON IS SUSPECTED DUE TO LOCATION AND RAPID BREAK OUT AND RAPID SPREAD OF FIRE. EIGHT FIRE TRUCKS AND FOUR SNORKELS REPRESENTING SIX ST LOUIS COUNTIES COMMUNITIES FIRE DEPARTMENTS ON SCENE.

BUREAU WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ADVISE OF DETAILS AS SITUATION DEVELOPES  
END



NRC07 WA PLAIN

1057AM URGENT 7/12/73 JXS

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY  
(NPRC-M), DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - POSSIBLE ARSON.  
OO: ST. LOUIS.

AT 12:15 A.M. TODAY A MAJOR FIRE WAS DISCOVERED AT THE  
NPRC-M, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. FIRE CURRENTLY OUT OF CONTROL AND  
POSSIBILITY EXISTS ENTIRE CENTER MAY BE TOTAL LOSS.

ALL OFFICES DISCONTINUE SENDING LEADS FOR CHECK OF RECORDS  
AT NPRC-M UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. ST. LOUIS ADVISE ALL OFFICES  
WHEN RECORD CHECKS CAN BE RESUMED.

END

FBI SL RCG

52-4856-3

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UNSUBS;  
MAJOR FIRE - NATIONAL PERSONNEL  
RECORDS CENTER-MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
7/12/73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON  
OO: ST. LOUIS

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At approximately 12:13 A.M., 7/12/73, a guard of the Federal Protection Service, assigned to captioned records center discovered a fire on the 6th floor near the rear of that building. The guard was not in the building at the time. He immediately reported the fire to the duty desk sergeant and the two attempted to respond to the 6th floor but were driven back by heavy smoke on the 4th floor.

All surrounding fire departments immediately responded to the fire which continued out of control well into the morning.

At approximately 12:00 Noon, 7/12/73, available reports indicated that the 6th floor of the NPRC-M was completely destroyed and the 5th floor partially destroyed. There was extensive smoke and water damage to all other floors.

Over 30 million military records, old and new, were stored in this building.

Bomb and arson experts from the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C., are on the scene conducting appropriate investigation.

Log sheets listing both employees and visitors to the building for 7/11/73 - 7/12/73, have been obtained and leads are being set out to locate and interview identifiable

MEMO FOR ALL AGENTS  
ST. LOUIS OFFICE  
7/12/73

1 - 52-4856

1 - 66-124

1 -

TRP:ck

(95)

b2

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52-4856-4  
SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....  
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....  
JUL 12 1973

b7C

UNSUBS;  
MAJOR FIRE - NATIONAL PERSONNEL  
RECORDS CENTER-MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
7/12/73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON  
OO: ST. LOUIS

persons listed on same.

In addition to Agents assigned leads pursuant to this matter, all Agents are requested to immediately contact law enforcement agencies, as well as logical informants and all positive information should be routed to St. Louis, file 52-4856.

SAC Robert G. Humbel *12*

F B I

Date: 7/12/73

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE NITEL  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM: ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M).

7/12/73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON. OO: ST. LOUIS.

RE BU TEL CALL, 7/12/73.

REVIEW OF ST. LOUIS FILES DISCLOSE FOLLOWING FIRES REPORTED  
TO ST. LOUIS FBI BETWEEN 7/1/72 TO PRESENT:

8/8/72, 12:45 P.M., TRASH CAN IN MEN'S RESTROOM, SECOND FLOOR,  
FOUND BURNING. NO SUBJECTS DEVELOPED.

8/8/72, 12:50 P.M., TRASH CAN IN MEN'S RESTROOM ON FIRST  
FLOOR FOUND ON FIRE. NO SUBJECTS DEVELOPED.

8/23/72, 8:37 A.M., TRASH CAN IN LADIES RESTROOM ON FIFTH  
FLOOR FOUND ON FIRE. NO SUBJECTS DEVELOPED.

11/8/72, 9:00 A.M., TRASH CAN IN LADIES RESTROOM ON FOURTH  
FLOOR FOUND BURNING. NO SUBJECTS DEVELOPED.


  
  
ALL ABOVE INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN NPRC-M BUILDING.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ABOVE INCIDENTS ARE ONLY ONES REPORTED



1 St. Louis

TRP:lho

(1)

Approved:  Special Agent in Charge

Sent  M Per 

52-4856-5  
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F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
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Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

**SL 52-4856**

**PAGE TWO**

**TO FBI AND OTHER MINOR INCIDENTS MAY HAVE OCCURRED WHICH WERE  
NOT REPORTED TO ST. LOUIS DIVISION. P**

**END**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 7/12/73

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR AND KANSAS CITY  
FROM: ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M).  
7/12/73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON. OO: ST. LOUIS.

RE ST. LOUIS TELETYPE 7/12/73.

BY WAY OF ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND, FIRE DISCOVERED BY FEDERAL PROTECTIVE GUARD WHO OBSERVED SMOKE ON 4TH FLOOR OF THE RECORD CENTER AT APPROXIMATELY 12:15 A.M., 7/12/73. THE OVERLAND, MO. FIRE DEPT. WAS CALLED AND RESPONDED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THERE ARE 8 TO 10 FIRE DEPARTMENTS AT THE SCENE ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL THE FIRE WHICH, AS OF 2 P.M., WAS NOT UNDER CONTROL. SO FAR, THERE HAVE BEEN 6 FIREMEN INJURED EITHER FROM SHATTERING WINDOWS OR FROM SMOKE INHALATION.

THE RECORD CENTER IS 6 FLOORS WITH 200,000 SQUARE FEET ESTIMATED FOR EACH FLOOR, MAKING SPACE IN THE BUILDING APPROXIMATELY 1,200,000 SQUARE FEET. THE 6TH FLOOR OF THE CENTER IS WHERE THE RECORDS OF WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, POST WORLD WAR II, AND ALL DISCHARGED AIR FORCE PERSONNEL ARE LOCATED. THE FIRE IS STILL RAGING ON THIS FLOOR AND IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED BY FIRE DEPARTMENT

① St. Louis

CJD:lhc

(1)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

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Per \_\_\_\_\_

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1971-413-135

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Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
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Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

SL 52-4856

PAGE TWO

PERSONNEL THAT THESE RECORDS WHICH NUMBER MORE THAN 30,000,000  
HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

THE 5TH FLOOR CONTAINS NAVY, MARINE AND COAST GUARD RECORDS  
AND THUS FAR THE FIRE HAS NOT EXTENDED INTO THAT AREA, HOWEVER,  
IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE IS APPROXIMATELY 3 AND ONE HALF FEET  
OF WATER COVERING THE 5TH FLOOR AND FIRE FIGHTERS ARE HOPEFUL  
THAT THIS WATER WILL HELP TO CONTAIN THE FIRE FROM SPREADING TO  
OTHER FLOORS. U. S. ARMY RESERVE RECORDS ARE MAINTAINED ON THE  
4TH FLOOR. THERE IS A SERIOUS QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE 5TH FLOOR  
WOULD HOLD THE WEIGHT OF THE WATER AND THE ROOF AND 6TH FLOOR  
SHOULD THE 6TH FLOOR AND ROOF GIVE WAY.

DUE TO INTENSIVE HEAT AND SMOKE NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO  
ENTER BUILDING TO GET VISUAL OBSERVATION OF INTERIOR. ALL  
ELECTRICAL POWER HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED. FBI SPACE LOCATED AT THE  
CENTER IS ON THE 2ND FLOOR AND THUS FAR HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY SMOKE  
ONLY. AGENTS AT SCENE UNDER PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF SAC AND ASAC  
COORDINATING IN OFFICE.

FBI LABORATORY EXAMINERS [REDACTED], AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ARRIVED ST. LOUIS 8:30 A.M. BUT DUE TO EXISTING CONDITIONS

b7C

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge



F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

**SL 52-4856**

**PAGE THREE**

**HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONDUCT ANY WORK. EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION  
BEING CONDUCTED RELATIVE TO INTERVIEWING EMPLOYEES, GUARDS,  
VISITORS, ETC., DURING THE PERTINENT PERIOD. EVERY EFFORT WILL  
BE MADE TO DETERMINE IF FIRE STARTED AS RESULT OF CRIMINAL ACT,  
ESTABLISHING FEDERAL VIOLATION.**

**BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS. P  
END**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Fire strikes Army facility

A general alarm fire swept the sixth floor of the Army Records Center, 9700 Page bl., Overland, shortly after midnight Thursday. It is the nation's major military records center.

Fire companies from the Community Fire Protection District, Overland, Wellston, University City, Maryland Heights, Normandy and Creve Coeur were still fighting the fire at 1:30 a.m.

More than 50 windows were

broken by heat and water from snorkel and aerial ladders of the different fire departments.

Onlookers on the ground said they could see records on shelves burning.

Intense heat kept firemen from entering the building.

At 1:40 a.m. firemen began making an intense efforts to reach the fifth floor when it was reported a man was trapped there without oxygen.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P3, St. Louis Globe-Democrat, St. Louis, Missouri

Date:

7/12/73

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

SL

☐ Being Investigated

52-4856-7  
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SERIALIZED FILED  
JUL 13 1973  
LOUIS

b7C

F B I

Date: 7/13/73

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR

KANSAS CITY

FROM: ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
7/12/73. DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON. OO: ST. LOUIS.

RE ST. LOUIS TEL TO BUREAU AND KANSAS CITY, 7/13/73.

FIRE ON THE 6TH FLOOR OF THE RECORDS CENTER HAS BEEN  
EXTINGUISHED AND FIRE EQUIPMENT IN PROCESS OF BEING REMOVED FROM  
SCENE. PERSONNEL STILL UNABLE TO ENTER CRITICAL AREAS OF THE  
BUILDING DUE TO INTENSE HEAT. WHEN HEAT DISSIPATES AND DENSE  
SMOKE CLEARS, ENGINEERS WILL ENTER BUILDING TO DETERMINE WHETHER  
PERTINENT AREAS CONSIDERED SAFE FOR OTHER PERSONNEL TO ENTER  
AND MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE DONE TO RECORDS.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED. P

END

1- St. Louis

CJD:lhc

(1)

52-4856-8  
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INDEXED  
FILED

Approved: K.C. 9/14/P

Special Agent in Charge

Sent WA 1040 PMPer WRF

F B I

Date: 7/14/73

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE N I T E L  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR  
KANSAS CITY

FROM: ST. LOUIS (52-4856) P

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
7/12/73; DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON (OO: ST. LOUIS)

RE ST. LOUIS TEL, 7/13/73

FIRE AT RECORD CENTER APPEARS TO BE UNDER CONTROL. FIRE-  
FIGHTERS INDICATE THERE ARE NO NOTICEABLE FLAMES, HOWEVER, HOT  
SPOTS REMAIN ON SIXTH FLOOR AND WATER IS STILL BEING APPLIED.  
INITIAL ESTIMATES AT THIS TIME LEND TOWARD TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF  
SIXTH FLOOR STRUCTURALLY, AND IT IS DOUBTFUL ANY RECORDS CONTAINED  
ON THE FLOOR HAVE SURVIVED. FIRE OFFICIALS AND BUILDING ENGINEERS  
EXPRESSED ADDITIONAL CONCERN OF POSSIBILITY THAT SIXTH FLOOR MAY  
COLLAPSE DUE TO DETERIORATION AND WEAKENING OF CONCRETE, COMPOUNDED

1 - ST. LOUIS  
MED:prk

102

52-4856-9

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SERIALIZED	K
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Approved: RGKWD  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent WA 445P KC 432P M Per PJM

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Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
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(Priority)

SL 52-4856

PAGE TWO

BY THE COLLAPSE OF THE ENTIRE CENTER PORTION OF THE ROOF ONTO THE SIXTH FLOOR. IF SIXTH FLOOR GIVES WAY, THIS COULD BRING SMOLDERING MATERIAL ONTO FIFTH FLOOR, CREATING ADDITIONAL FIRE HAZARD.

THERE IS GENERAL OPTIMISM REGARDING ARCHIVES ON REMAINING FLOORS OF BUILDING WHERE RECORDS SUFFERED SOME WATER DAMAGE, THE EXTENT OF WHICH CANNOT YET BE DETERMINED. GEOLOGISTS AND BUILDING ENGINEERS REMAIN AT THE SCENE, BUT INDICATE THE BUILDING IS NOT SAFE TO ENTER YET TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF DAMAGE TO STRUCTURE AND ARCHIVES AND MAY BE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE SUCH A SURVEY MAY BE MADE.

CONTINUOUS LIAISON IS BEING MAINTAINED WITH FIRE OFFICIALS AND ENGINEERS, AND THE BUREAU WILL BE APPRAISED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. END.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

F B I

Date: 7/13/73

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR

KANSAS CITY

FROM: ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
7/12/73. DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON. OO: ST. LOUIS.

RE ST. LOUIS TEL 7/12/73.

FIRE CONTINUES ON 6TH FLOOR OF RECORDS CENTER BUILDING AND  
FIRE APPARATUS CONTINUES TO POUR WATER INTO BUILDING THROUGH  
WINDOWS AND ROOF WHICH HAS PARTIALLY CAVED IN. AFTER SEVERAL  
ATTEMPTS MADE BY FIRE FIGHTERS TO GET TO THE CENTER OF THE 6TH  
FLOOR TO CONCENTRATE FLOW OF WATER IN THAT PORTION WHERE FIRE  
IS MORE INTENSE, FIRE FIGHTERS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN GAINING ENTRY  
INTO CENTER OF 6TH FLOOR AND WERE DIRECTING FLOW OF WATER IN ALL  
DIRECTIONS FROM CENTER OF THE FLOOR. AFTER SHORT PERIOD OF TIME,  
FIRE FIGHTERS WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM 6TH FLOOR AREA DUE TO  
DANGER OF COLLAPSE. FIRE CHIEF HAS EXPRESSED OPINION THAT AS  
BUILDING COOLS, A STRONG POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT ROOF PORTION OF  
THE BUILDING WILL COLLAPSE. IT APPEARS THAT PROBABLY SOME TIME  
DURING THIS COMING WEEKEND HEAT AND SMOKE WILL HAVE REDUCED TO

1- St. Louis

CJD:lhc  
(1)

Approved: KJD  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 4:12 PM WA 4:46 PM PC M Per W

52-4856-10  
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Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
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Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

SL 52-4856

PAGE TWO

THE POINT WHERE ENGINEERING PERSONNEL WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER  
VARIOUS FLOORS IN THE BUILDING AND MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO  
WHETHER OR NOT OTHER PERSONNEL CAN ENTER BUILDING AND ASSESS DAMAGE  
TO RECORDS UNDER SAFE CONDITIONS. b7C

FBI LABORATORY EXAMINERS [REDACTED], AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DEPARTED ST. LOUIS FOR RETURN TO WASHINGTON A. M. OF  
7/13/73.

BUILDING ENGINEERS RELATE THAT THE CONCRETE WHICH MAKES UP  
THE FLOORING WILL CRYSTALLIZE UNDER PROLONGED HEAT AND WILL  
PROBABLY LOSE ITS [REDACTED] STRENGTH AND THIS CONDITION HAS ALSO  
CAUSED GREAT CONCERN AS TO WHETHER THE FLOORS WILL CONTINUE TO  
HOLD OR WHETHER THEY WILL COLLAPSE. AS SOON AS ENTRY CAN BE  
MADE INTO BUILDING UNDER SAFE CONDITIONS, FBI SPACE AT THE RECORDS  
CENTER WILL BE ENTERED AND ALL CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO FBI  
RECORD CHECKS WILL BE RETRIEVED AS WELL AS ANY OTHER PROPERTY  
BELONGING TO THE BUREAU. THERE ARE NO MANUALS OR HIGHLY SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL IN THE OFFICE SPACE. BUILDING CONTINUES UNDER FULL SECURITY.

ALTHOUGH NO ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN MADE FROM A VISUAL OBSERVATION  
OF THE INTERIOR DAMAGE TO RECORDS, IT WOULD APPEAR AT THIS POINT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

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Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

SL 52-4856

PAGE THREE

THAT THE CHECKING OF MILITARY RECORDS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR  
A SUBSTANTIALLY LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND IT IS ALSO QUITE POSSIBLE  
THAT WE MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO CHECK MILITARY RECORDS IN THE FUTURE.

THE BUREAU WILL CONTINUE TO BE APPRISED OF DEVELOPMENTS. P  
END

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



NR01 SL PLAIN

NITEL 7-15-73 BGH

Tra TO DIRECTOR <sup>RXH</sup>

KANSAS CITY

Via FROM ST. LOUIS (52-4856) P

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
7/12/73; DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON (OO: ST. LOUIS)

RE SL TEL 7/14/73.

FIRE MARSHAL [REDACTED] OVERLAND COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION  
DISTRICT, ADVISES 6TH FLOOR OF RECORD CENTER STILL EXTREMELY HOT  
WITH FIRE SMOLDERING IN AREA BENEATH COLLAPSED ROOF AND INSIDE METAL  
FILE CABINETS. ONE FIREMAN OVERCOME BY SMOKE AND HEAT. DUE TO GRAVE  
DOUBTS RE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF ENTIRE BUILDING AND POSSIBILITY  
OF FURTHER COLLAPSE OF 6TH AND POSSIBLY 5TH FLOORS AS COOLING PRO-  
CEEDS, ONLY FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL BEING PERMITTED TO ENTER BUILDING  
AND EXAMINATION OF FIRE SCENE NOT POSSIBLE. FIRE MARSHAL [REDACTED]  
ADVISES SAFE ACCESS CANNOT BE GAINED PRIOR TO 12:00 NOON 7/16/73 AT  
WHICH TIME STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS HOPED TO BE COMPLETE. b7C

[REDACTED] GSA OFFICIAL COORDINATING SALVAGE AND CLEANUP, ADVISED  
ON 7/15/73 THAT ENGINEERING TEAMS PRESENTLY EVALUATING STRUCTURAL  
INTEGRITY HOWEVER NO CONCLUSION REACHED. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT BUILDING  
CORNERS, FROM 6TH FLOOR TO NEAR GROUND LEVEL, OUT OF PLUMB AND  
STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF BALANCE OF BUILDING IN DOUBT. AS SAFETY

PAGE ONE

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Per

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Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

SL (52-4856)

PERMITS, [ ] PLANS TO REMOVE BUILDING CONTENTS FOR EITHER CLEANUP OR CONDEMNATION OF BUILDING. [ ] ADVISES THAT STEEL REINFORCING RODS IN MAIN SUPPORTING COLUMNS ARE INTERCONNECTED AND EXTREME HEAT GENERATED ON 6TH FLOOR TRANSMITTED TO REMAINDER OF BUILDING. b7C

CONTINUING INVESTIGATION HAS DEVELOPED NO INDICATION OF ARSON. APPRAISAL OF CHIEF FIRE PERSONNEL, THAT FIRE SMOLDERED SEVERAL HOURS PRIOR TO FULL BREAKOUT, NOT CONSISTENT WITH REPORTS OF CUSTODIAL AND PROTECTIVE PERSONNEL WHO CLAIM INSPECTION REVEALED NO FIRE ON 6TH FLOOR AREA ONE HOUR BEFORE FIRE DISCOVERED.

ST. LOUIS CONTINUING LIASION WITH FIRE OFFICIALS AND WILL ADVISE OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

END.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : ASAC

DATE: 7-13-73

FROM :

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT:

[REDACTED]

info concerning the Fire at NPRC

SL  
52-4856

[REDACTED] stated that it was he who turned in the alarm in the fire at NPRC and if we wished to talk to him, he can be reached at this no. b7C

[REDACTED] before 2 pm at this time he will be leaving for work at Carter Carburetor Co., 2840 N. spring. [REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED] TO INTERVIEW  
7-13-73

VXJ



52-4856-12  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
JUL 13 1973

[REDACTED]

b7C

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, telephone [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the nature of the interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] advised that he is employed by Carter Carburetor as a [redacted], 2840 North Spring, Overland, Missouri. He left work on the night of July 11, 1973, at 12:07 AM. [redacted] stated that he was proceeding north on Dielman and was approaching the railroad crossing when he spotted a fire on the top floor of the record center located at 4700 Page Avenue. [redacted] stated that he estimated the time that he saw the fire to be 12:12 AM and he proceeded immediately to the security office of the record center and reported the same. [redacted] advised that when he noticed the fire the flames were from ten to 12 feet in height. [redacted] provided the attached diagram of the building with a notation as to where he saw the flames coming from. b7C

[redacted] advised that he did not see any unusual or fast-moving vehicles on either Dielman or Page on the evening of July 11, 1973. [redacted] further advised that from the intensity of the flames he felt that the fire had been started at least one-half hour previously.

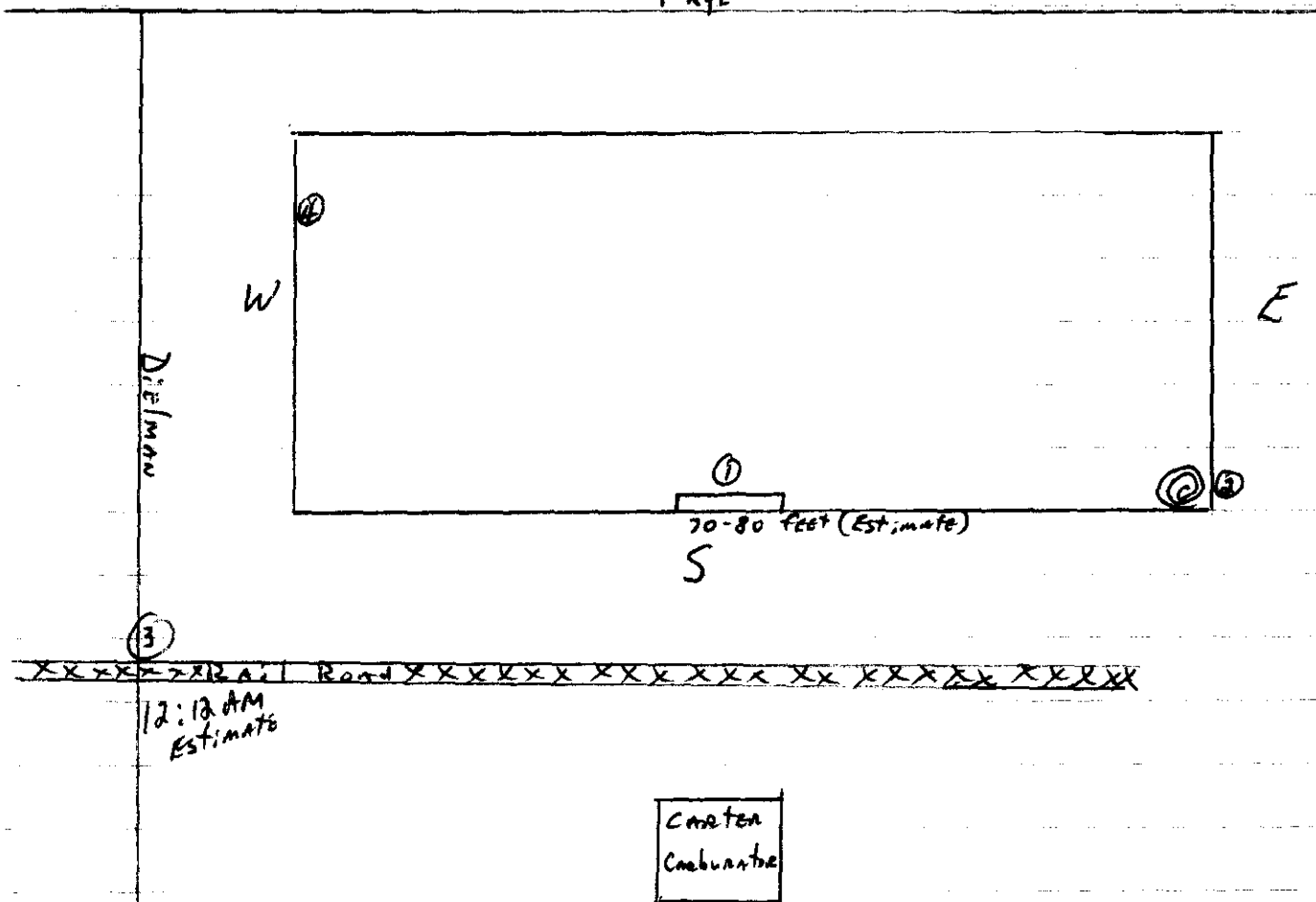
The following is a description of [redacted]

Race:	Caucasian
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Place of birth:	[redacted] Mo.
Social security account number:	[redacted]

Interviewed on 7/13/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-13  
by SA [redacted] CW [redacted] Date dictated 7/13/73

7/13/73

N  
Page



Carter  
Combustion

12:07 AM  
time card

b7C

- ① Location of fire on 6<sup>th</sup> floor when noticed by  at approximately 12:12 AM
- ② Smoke pouring from corner - 6<sup>th</sup> floor
- ③ Location when  noticed fire
- ④ Reported fire to guard at this point

SL 52-4856

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted] Apartment  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was  
advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and  
the nature of the interview. [redacted] provided the  
following information:

b7C

[redacted] stated that she is employed by the U.S.  
Army, Office of the Adjutant General, Publications  
Building, located at 1655 Woodson Road, as a [redacted]  
[redacted] She works the shift beginning at 11:15 PM and  
ending at 7:45 AM. [redacted] did work on Wednesday night,  
or beginning on July 11 and ending on July 12, 1973.

[redacted] advised that she was in her office  
and received a call from [redacted]  
who works the evening shift and who had just departed  
the area. [redacted] advised her that the record center  
building was on fire and that he was notifying security  
guards.

[redacted] accompanied by a co-worker, [redacted]  
[redacted] proceeded from their building to the record  
center building by automobile. Neither she nor [redacted]  
[redacted] noticed any unusual vehicles, fast-moving vehicles  
or any other circumstance that would have caught their  
attention. She advised that since she did not work  
in the record center building that the people standing  
on the parking lot near the record center when she  
arrived all looked strange to her.

[redacted] is described as follows:

b7C

Race:	Caucasian
Sex:	Female
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Place of birth:	[redacted] Missouri
Social security account number:	[redacted]
Automobile driven on night of July 11, 1973:	1971 Oldsmobile 98, navy blue, registered to [redacted]

Interviewed on 7/13/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 - 14  
by SA [redacted] cw Date dictated 7/13/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] stated that he is a part-time or summer-time employee of the National Personnel Records Center, GSA Record Center, located at 9700 Page Avenue. He began employment on May 15, 1973 as a [redacted] and his supervisor is [redacted]. His job consists of reviewing files and attaching a label when the file is ready to be computerized.

[redacted] stated that he works the evening shift which is from 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. and he did not work on the evening of July 11, 1973. [redacted] advised that his work is accomplished on the second floor of the record center building and that on the evening of July 11, 1973, he remained on the second floor from 4:05 p.m. through 12:25 a.m. with the exception of one-half hour from 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. when he went to the parking lot to his car to eat lunch. He advised that he saw no unusual people and noticed no unusual activity on the evening of July 11, 1973 either while he was within the record center building or when he was on the parking lot eating his lunch. [redacted] stated that the evening seemed very common to him.

b7C

[redacted] stated that he heard no alarms, saw no smoke or fire until he was leaving the building at approximately 12:25 p.m. At this time he advised that the second floor hall was smoky and that an elevator came down from the top floors and it was filled with smoke.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Race: Caucasian  
Sex: Male  
Date of birth: [redacted]

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-8856 -15

by SA [redacted] dls Date dictated 7/13/73

SL 52-2856

Height:	5'11"
Weight:	160 pounds
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Blue
Social Security Number:	<div data-bbox="812 466 1079 514" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 165px; height: 23px;"></div>
Occupation:	normally a student at the University of Missouri, Columbia to return in September, 1973

b7C



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/13/73

Date of transcription

[redacted]  
Missouri, telephone [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the nature of the interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] advised that he is employed by the National Personnel Records Center as a [redacted]. He began employment on May 14, 1973. He is a part-time or summer employee. His supervisor is [redacted] and he is assigned to the evening shift, 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM. [redacted] stated that he did work on the night of July 11, 1973, on the first floor of the records center building. At no time did he go to any other floors of this building and left the building at only one time, 8:00 to 8:30 PM for lunch, until 12:10 PM when he went to the second floor to obtain his workbox.

[redacted] advised that he noted nothing unusual and saw no new employees in or around the record center on the night of July 11, 1973. He advised that he was not aware of any left-wing or militant-type individuals employed by the record center.

b7C

[redacted] advised that prior to leaving, at approximately 12:10 PM, he was accompanied by another clerk to the second floor of this building where he normally worked, to pick up his workbox and return it to the first floor. [redacted] advised that when he was leaving the second floor the hall seemed smoky and that an elevator which had come down from a floor above the second floor stopped on this floor and when the doors opened it was filled with smoke. [redacted] advised that he did not know that there was a fire until the time he was leaving the area at approximately 12:25 PM.

The following is a description of [redacted]

Race:

Caucasian

Sex:

Male

Interviewed on 7/13/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-16

by SA [redacted] CW Date dictated 7/13/73

SL 52-4856

Date of birth:

[REDACTED]

Height:

5'7"

Weight:

153

Hair:

Brown

Eyes:

Blue

Social security  
account number:

[REDACTED]

b7C

Education:

Student, St. Louis University,  
majoring in psychology  
1973 Buick Century, white over  
green. 1974 Missouri license

Automobile:

[REDACTED]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/13/73

Date of transcription

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed at his residence and supplied the following information:

[redacted] advised that he has been employed at the Military Personnel Records Center located at 9700 Page Boulevard for approximately ten years. His principal duties are as [redacted]. [redacted] further advised that on the evening of July 11, 1973 he was working a 4:00 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. shift. On that date [redacted] advised that he was working on the north side of the 6th floor damp mopping and buffing the floors. Accompanying him were two young males named [redacted] and [redacted] (last names unknown). These two individuals were assigned to work with him and assist him in his duties as part of a summer job program instituted at the Records Center. [redacted] stated that aside from the two 15 minute breaks and the one-half hour lunch period taken during the course of the evening, he had been working on the 6th floor for the entire evening.

[redacted] advised that at no time did the two young men assigned to work with him ever leave his sight. [redacted] could not recall anything unusual transpiring during the course of the evening and that up until the time he had signed out at 12:30 A.M., it had been just an average day.

[redacted] further advised that the only other people he observed on the north side of the 6th floor where he was working was a man named [redacted] (last name unknown) whose job it was to walk through the building and inspect for irregularities such as fans left on that shouldn't have been on, lights on, etc.

[redacted] advised that at approximately 12:30 A.M. he was signing out on the 1st floor and was waiting for the guard to open the door so he could leave the building. At that time he was in the company of several other custodians, all of whom were unaware of any fire that might have been going in the building at that time. At this time, [redacted] stated, he was told by a supervisor to remain there for a

b7C

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 -17  
by [redacted] kmt Date dictated 7/13/73

SL 52-4856  
PG:kmt

while due to the report of a fire in the building and that his services might be needed in a subsequent cleaning up operation. Shortly thereafter [redacted] stated that he was told to leave the building and go home and that there was nothing further he could do. [redacted] stated that while driving out of the Records Center complex, he observed several fire engines speeding toward the Center and it was at that time that he first realized the seriousness of the fire.

[redacted] stated that he has no idea how the fire could have started nor could he suggest any particular person who might be responsible for starting such a fire.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Height	5'8"
Weight	170 pounds
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Hair	Gray
Eyes	Brown
Social Security Account Number	[redacted]

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 13, 1973

[redacted]  
Missouri, telephone [redacted] employee,  
Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC), 9700 Page  
Boulevard, Overland, Missouri, advised as follows  
concerning his knowledge of the fire that occurred at  
MPRC on July 12, 1973:

[redacted] advised that he is a ~~summer~~ employee  
at the MPRC and his supervisor is [redacted]. He  
stated that he signed in for work at 3:45 P.M. on  
July 11, 1973, and signed out at 12:30 A.M. on July 12,  
1973.

[redacted] advised that he worked on the north  
side of the sixth floor from approximately 4:15 P.M. to  
11:30 P.M. as a mopper and buffer with [redacted]  
[redacted] and [redacted] who mops  
the hallway.

He stated that he and persons working with him  
left the sixth floor at 11:30 P.M. to put their equipment  
away on the first floor.

[redacted] advised that when he signed out at  
12:30 A.M. he smelled smoke as he walked by the elevators  
on the way to the door. He advised that [redacted]  
[redacted] walked up to he and other men  
standing near the front door and asked them to stay to help  
find the fire and put it out.

[redacted] advised that he, [redacted] and a man last  
name [redacted] took an elevator to the fifth floor but there  
was too much smoke and they returned to the first floor and  
departed the building.

He advised that he walked around the south  
side of the building where a fire truck had just arrived  
and he could see flames coming out of what he thought  
was a fifth floor window, which seemed to be centered around  
an electrical fan.

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at Pagedale, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-18  
by SA [redacted] JNC: pdp Date dictated 7/13/73

SL 52-4856

[redacted] advised that he does not know how the fire started and has no knowledge of anyone who may do such a thing. He stated that when he left the sixth floor at 11:30 P.M. there was no sign of a fire.

The following is a description of [redacted]

Name	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date, place of birth	[redacted] Missouri
Height	6'1"
Weight	145
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Address	7123 El Toro, Pagedale, Missouri
Occupation	Student, Normandy High School
Automobile	1967 Chevrolet Impala, blue. Missouri license [redacted]

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date dictated 7/13/73

[redacted] was interviewed at his residence. He was advised of the interviewing Agents' identities and the nature of the investigation.

[redacted] advised he is employed by GSA with the Maintenance Force. He goes to work around 3:30 PM each day at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). His job consists of removing the trash cans from the building. He works on all six floors. On July 13, 1973, he worked his regular schedule and at 12:30 AM, he was on the first floor. He was there with other members of the Maintenance Force signing out at the guard station. He noticed that the guard was not present. Someone in the crowd said that the guard had gone outside to investigate a fire. A few minutes after 12:30 AM, [redacted] supervisor instructed [redacted] and four or five other employees to go up on the elevators to the fifth floor and try to put the fire out. [redacted] and [redacted] took one of the large elevators to the fifth floor. When the door was opened [redacted] described the smoke as being so bad that you could barely see two feet in front of your face. They closed the doors of the elevator and went back to the first floor. [redacted] and [redacted] took a small freight elevator back up to the fifth floor, but the smoke was just as bad there as it was when they traveled to the fifth floor on the large elevator. [redacted] stated that he was on the fifth floor at approximately 10:30 PM and there was not even a smell of smoke. [redacted] stated he had no information to indicate that someone might be responsible for setting this fire. He speculated that it was possibly an accident caused by sparks from the electrical lines servicing the large exhaust fans located at the ends of the hallways of each floor.

b7C

The following descriptive data was obtained from interview:

Name	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of birth	[redacted] at [redacted] Missouri

Date dictated 7/12/73 University City, Mo. File # SL 52-4856

SA [redacted]

SA [redacted]

Date dictated 7/13/73

SL 52-4856

Height  
Weight  
Hair  
Eyes  
Military service  
Social Security  
Account Number  
Telephone number

5'6"  
175 pounds  
Short and grey  
Brown  
U. S.Army, 1942-45



b7C



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 13, 1973

[redacted]  
Missouri, telephone [redacted] Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC), 9700 Page, Overland, Missouri, advised as follows concerning his knowledge of the fire that occurred on July 12, 1973, at MPRC:

[redacted] advised that he is a summer employee along with approximately 25 - 30 other young people under the supervision of [redacted] (phonetic) on a special project for the Civil Service Commission. [redacted] advised that he checked in at 3:30 P.M., July 11, 1973, and signed out at 12:30 A.M., July 12, 1973.

[redacted] advised that he works on the second floor and only leaves it to go to lunch on the fifth floor.

b7C

[redacted] advised that at approximately 12:10 A.M. he left the first floor to return files that he had been working on and approximately 12:20 A.M. returned to the second floor to sign out. [redacted] advised on his return to the second floor he could smell smoke on the stairs. He stated that at 12:10 A.M. when he was on the stairway he did not smell smoke.

[redacted] advised that he does not know of anyone who would have started the fire at MPRC and has no knowledge as to how it was started.

The following is a description of [redacted]

Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date, place of birth	[redacted] Missouri
Height	5'6"
Weight	130-140
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Address	[redacted] Missouri

Interviewed on

7/12/73

Affton, Missouri

File #

SL 52-4856 -20

SA  
SA

JNC:pdp

7/13/73

Date dictated

b7C

SL 52-4856

Occupation

Student, Oklahoma University,  
Norman, Oklahoma

Automobile

1971 Rambler Ambassador.

Missouri license



b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] stated that he is a summer-time employee at the Records Center and is employed as a [redacted]. He is a student at the University of Missouri in Columbia, majoring in Business Administration and will be a sophomore when he returns to school in September, 1973.

[redacted] job consists of checking files and attaching a label to have the records computerized. His supervisor is [redacted] works on the second floor of the records center building and he works the evening shift, 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. [redacted] advised that he did work on July 11, 1973.

[redacted] advised that he remained on the second floor from approximately 4:05 p.m. through 12:15 a.m. except for the period 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. when he went to the fifth floor snack bar for lunch. [redacted] stated that he saw no new employees or any suspicious looking people and there were no unusual occurrences on the evening July 11, 1973. b7C

[redacted] advised that when he went to the fifth floor on July 11, 1973 at 8:00 p.m., he did not smell smoke and did not see any fire. He advised that the first time he knew there was a fire was approximately 12:30 a.m. when he was leaving the building to go home.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Race:	Caucasian
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	160 pounds
Hair:	Brown
Social Security #:	[redacted]

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 53-3856 21

by SA [redacted] /dlm Date dictated 7/13/73

SL 52-3856

**Father:**

**Missouri**

**Mother:**

**Employment:**

**National Personnel Records  
Center, GSA Record Center;  
5/14/73 through present  
(summer employment)**

b7C

**Employee Identifi-  
cation Number:**

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, was contacted regarding the fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page Boulevard on July 12, 1973.

[redacted] advised he is employed at the NPRC as a file clerk on temporary basis for the summer only. He stated that during his normal course of duty, he works on the first and second floor only. He stated that sometimes he rides the elevator to the fifth floor to utilize the snack bar, but that he did not do that last night. [redacted] stated that, in fact, last night, he only went to the first and second floor. [redacted] stated that he arrived at work at 3:30 p.m., July 11, 1973 and left work at approximately 12:30 a.m., July 12, 1973.

[redacted] stated that he did not notice anything unusual last night nor did he notice anything or any person of a suspicious nature.

[redacted] furnished the following background information: b7C

## Social Security

Number: [redacted]

NPRC Badge

Number: [redacted]

Telephone Number: [redacted]

Race:

White

Sex:

Male

Height:

6'

Weight:

160 pounds

Date of birth:

Hair:

Brown

Eyes:

Hazel

Observation of [redacted] badge revealed that it was a red badge, but [redacted] did not know the significance of the color.

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at Ellisville, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 - 22

by SA [redacted] /dls [signature] Date dictated 7/13/73

SL 52-3856

advised that if he obtains any information that might be helpful in solving this case, he would immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation. b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was advised of the nature of the interview and of the identity of the interviewing Agent. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] stated that she is a [redacted] employee at the National Personnel Records Center, GSA Record Center, located at 9700 Page Avenue. BRYANT advised that she works the evening shift from 4:00 p.m. through 12:30 a.m. and that she did work on July 11, 1973.

[redacted] stated that she is a [redacted] employee assigned to the sixth floor, west end, of the building. She advised that she was on the floor from 4:00 through 11:00 p.m. with  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour (7:30 to 8:00) for lunch. At 11:00 p.m. on July 11, 1973, [redacted] left the sixth floor and went to the second floor to join a friend of hers.

[redacted] advised that she noticed nothing unusual on the evening of July 11, 1973 and to her knowledge, there were no unusual employees in her area on that evening. She advised that there are normally three custodial employees on the sixth floor on the evening shift. These are herself, [redacted] (phonetic), and [redacted] however, on the night of July 11, 1973, there was a mopping crew which consisted of [redacted] and one new employee on the floor also, [redacted] (phonetic), who was assigned the job of mopping all the corridors in the building. b7C


[redacted] stated that she noticed no smoke and saw no flames from the fire at any time. She advised she did not know there was a fire until approximately 12:25 a.m. when she left the building to go home for the evening.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Race:	Negro
Sex:	Female
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Place of birth:	[redacted] Missouri

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 -23  
by SA [redacted] /dls Date dictated 7/13/73

**SL 52-4856**

**Height:** 5'2"  
**Weight:** 133 pounds  
**Social Security**  
**Number:**   
**Employee Identifi-**  
**cation Number:**  
**Employment:** National Personnel Records  
Center, GSA Record Center;  
6½ years

b7C



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted] was interviewed at his residence. He was advised of the interviewing Agents' identities and the nature of the investigation.

[redacted] stated he was employed as a GSA Maintenance employee and has been at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) since 1955. His supervisor is [redacted]. He stated his job is to clean all the stairs and stairwells. On July 12, 1973, he arrived at work at the NPRC at approximately 3:10 PM. He did not actually start work until 4:00 PM. He handles the work on all six floors and usually begins at the top and works his way to the bottom floor. He recalls finishing at approximately 11:30 PM, at which time he returned to the fifth floor, west end of the building. b7C He usually checks this area two or three times in an evening since the maintenance force congregates here on their breaks because the food and drink machines are located here. At about 12:15 AM, [redacted] returned to the first floor and checked in his equipment. At 12:30 AM, he signed out on the sign-out sheet provided at the guard station. The guard was not present and a few minutes later he heard everyone talking about smoke on the fifth floor. Shortly after that it was learned that there was a fire going on upstairs on the fifth or sixth floor. [redacted] went outside and there he was able to observe flames at the windows of the middle of the sixth floor. He stated he had no idea who may have set the fire if it is a case of arson. He has heard no one talk of attempting to destroy any of the records at the center.

The following descriptive data was obtained from interview and observation:

Name	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of birth	[redacted] at [redacted] Oklahoma
Height	5'9½"
Weight	142 pounds
Physical characteristics	Short, greying hair, grey mustache and goatee

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at University City, Mo. File # SL 52-4856 -24  
 by SA [redacted] mg Date dictated 7/13/73

SL 52-4856

Build  
Military service

Thin  
U. S. Army Engineers,  
World War II, 1943-45  
1965 Chrysler

Auto  
Current Missouri license  
Telephone number



b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted] telephone number [redacted]  
[redacted] Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC), 9700 Page, Overland, Missouri, advised as follows concerning his knowledge of the fire that occurred July 12, 1973, at MPRC:

[redacted] advised that he is a summer employee on a special project for the Civil Service Administration and his duties are to check files for proper names and numbers on military discharge files. [redacted] advised that he arrived on 3:45 PM July 11, 1973, and signed out at 12:30 AM July 12, 1973. [redacted] advised that he works on the second floor of the MPRC, and that he only leaves the second floor at 6:00 o'clock and 10:00 PM for breaks, and 8:00 PM for dinner. He stated that he sometimes goes to the fifth floor cafeteria to eat, but on July 11, 1973, he stayed on the second floor all night.

b7C

[redacted] advised that he does not know of anyone who would have started this fire at MPRC and has no knowledge as to how it started.

The following is a description of [redacted]

Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	[redacted]
Place of birth	[redacted] Missouri
Height	5'11"
Weight	170 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Social Security Number	[redacted]
Education	Student, St. Louis University
Automobile	1969 blue Camaro
Missouri license plate	[redacted]

Interviewed on 7/13/73 at St. Louis, Mo. File # SL 52-4856-25

by SA [redacted] jmg Date dictated 7/13/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed at his residence and supplied the following information:

[redacted] has been employed at the Military Personnel Records Center at 9700 Page Boulevard for approximately seven years. [redacted] advised that he is employed there as [redacted]

On July 11, 1973, [redacted] stated that he was performing a 4:00 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. shift. [redacted] further stated that for the entire tour of duty he was working on the 4th floor performing general cleaning duties. [redacted] advised that during the course of the evening he noted no irregularities or anything unusual that had transpired during the night. At approximately 12:30 A.M. [redacted] advised he went to the 1st floor to sign out and at that time noticed oncoming fire engines.

[redacted] stated that he had no idea how the fire could have started nor any suggestion of anyone whom he knows who could have been responsible for setting the fire at the Records Center. b7C

[redacted] is described as follows:

Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Height	5'7"
Weight	170 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Social Security Account Number	[redacted]

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-26  
by SA [redacted] knt Date dictated 7/13/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/13/73

Date of transcription

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted]  
was interviewed at his residence and supplied the following information:

[redacted] advised that he has been employed at the Military Personnel Records Center located at 9700 Page Boulevard since May of 1973. [redacted] stated that his principal duties were as a [redacted] affixing labels on files on the 2nd floor of the complex. [redacted] advised that on July 11, 1973 he was performing a 4:00 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. shift. To the best of his recollection it was a normal tour of duty. He noted no irregularities nor anything unusual transpiring during the course of the evening.

b7C

At approximately 12:30 A.M. [redacted] advised that he signed out and at that time noticed oncoming fire engines but advised he assumed there was a small fire somewhere in the area. [redacted] stated that while driving out of the complex and looking back at the building, he did notice flames on the 6th floor.

[redacted] stated that he had no idea how the fire could have started nor could he think of anyone who could be responsible for starting ~~such~~ a fire at the Records Center.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	6'
Weight	150 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Social Security	[redacted]
Account Number	[redacted]

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at Webster Groves, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 -27  
by SA [redacted] kmt Date dictated 7/13/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

b7C

[redacted] stated that he is a [redacted] employee at the National Personnel Records Center, GSA Record Center, located 9700 Page Avenue. He is assigned to the [redacted] staff and is assigned the task of cleaning ash trays in the corridors of all the floors of the record center building. BOYER stated that he was on all floors at least one time in the evening of July 11, 1973. He advised that he was on the sixth floor at approximately 10:45 p.m. and at this time he noted no unusual people or occurrences. The only other person he saw when he was on the sixth floor was [redacted] another [redacted] employee.

[redacted] advised that he did not smell any smoke or see any fire when he was on the sixth floor and did not know there was a fire until approximately 12:25 a.m., when he left going home.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Race:	Caucasian
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Height:	6'
Weight:	173 pounds
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Gray
Social Security Number:	[redacted]
Employee Identification Number:	[redacted]

b7C

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 - 28

by SA [redacted] /dls Date dictated 7/13/73

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7-16-73

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri [redacted] a summer employee at Military Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page, Overland, Missouri, furnished the following information:

[redacted] arrived for work on July 11, 1973 at approximately 4:00 P.M. She worked the entire day on the second floor of the Military Records Center. Her only departure from the second floor area was at approximately 8:00 P.M. when she took her lunch hour. At this time she went to the fifth floor of this building. She returned to the second floor at approximately 8:30 P.M.

[redacted] has been working as a [redacted] at the Records Center since May 14, 1973. [redacted] advised that she left the Records Center at approximately 12:30 A.M. [redacted] could furnish no additional details regarding the fire at this location and offered no suspects in this matter.

b7C

The following description of [redacted] was taken from observation and interview:

Name	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]
Telephone	[redacted] Missouri [redacted]
Social Security Number	[redacted]
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Grey
Height	5'10"
Weight	145
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Place of Birth	[redacted] Missouri
Government Identification Number	[redacted]
Position	[redacted]
Supervisor	[redacted]
Education	Valpariso College, Valpariso, Indiana senior

Interviewed on 7-13-73 at St. Charles, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 -29  
by SA [redacted] MJJ:ss Date dictated 7-16-73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7-16-73

Date of transcription \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Missouri, telephone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 employee at the Military Personnel Records Center, 9700  
 Page, Overland, Missouri, furnished the following  
 information regarding his activities on July 11, 1973:

\_\_\_\_\_ advised he has been an employee at the  
 Military Personnel Records Center for approximately eight  
 years. He stated he would have his eight year anniversary  
 on August 18, 1973. On July 11, 1973, \_\_\_\_\_ arrived at the  
 Records Center at approximately 3:55 P.M. He signed into the  
 Records Center at 4:00 P.M. and immediately went to perform  
 his \_\_\_\_\_ duties on the first floor of this building.  
 He remained on the first floor of the building until approximately  
 7:30 P.M. when he proceeded to the Snack Bar on the fifth  
 floor of the Records Center. He returned from the Snack  
 Bar at approximately 8:00 P.M. and resumed his duties  
 on the first floor. During his coffee break at 9:45 P.M.  
 he went to the sixth floor of the Records Center to  
 converse with a fellow employee by the name of \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ could not furnish \_\_\_\_\_ last name; however, \_\_\_\_\_ advised  
 \_\_\_\_\_ works on the sixth floor of this building. \_\_\_\_\_  
 stated that there were approximately 15 people on the  
 sixth floor during this time. In addition to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ at the Records Center and his \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ were also on the sixth floor. He recalled that  
 there were three youngsters on the sixth floor at this time;  
 however, \_\_\_\_\_ could not furnish the names of any other individuals  
 on the sixth floor at this time. \_\_\_\_\_ left the sixth floor  
 at approximately 10:00 P.M. He again returned to the first  
 floor and remained there until he concluded his working  
 hours at 12:30 A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ left through the east door of the  
 building and initially heard about the fire in the building  
 while he was waiting to sign out. \_\_\_\_\_ could furnish no  
 suspects in this fire.

b7C

The following description of \_\_\_\_\_ was taken from  
 observation and interview:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ first  
 floor, \_\_\_\_\_ Missouri

Interviewed on 7-12-73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-36  
 by SA \_\_\_\_\_ ss Date dictated 7-16-73



SL 52-4856

Telephone number

[REDACTED]

b7C

Race

Negro

Sex

Male

Height

5'5"

Weight

138

Date of Birth

[REDACTED]

Place of Birth

[REDACTED] Mississippi

Hair

Black

Eyes

Brown

Social Security  
Number

[REDACTED]

Government

Identification  
Number

Education

Student, Forest Park  
Community College,  
first semester

Employment

Custodial laborer for  
General Services Administration,  
at Military Personnel Records  
Center

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7-16-73

[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] a [redacted] employee at the Military Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page, Overland, Missouri, furnished the following information regarding his activities on July 11, 1973:

[redacted] arrived at the Military Personnel Records Center at approximately 3:30 P.M. and left the Records Center at approximately 12:30 P.M. [redacted] spent the entire day in Room 1020 on the first floor of the Records Center. His only departure from the Records Center was for lunch at approximately 7:30 P.M. and he returned to the Records Center at 8:00 P.M. [redacted] advised he left the Records Center and had lunch at Wishbone Chicken. He worked with [redacted] and [redacted] on the first floor during this day. [redacted] supervisor is [redacted] and his foreman is [redacted] could furnish no suspects in this matter. b7C

[redacted] has been an employee at the Records Center for approximately six years. He advised that [redacted] and [redacted] (phonetic) are the regular [redacted] employees on the sixth floor of the Records Center.

[redacted] could furnish no further information in this matter.

The following description of [redacted] was taken from observation and interview:

Name  
Address  
  
Telephone  
Race  
Sex  
Height  
Weight  
Hair

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri [redacted]  
White  
Male  
5'10"  
198  
Brown

Interviewed on 7-12-73 at St. Johns, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-31  
by SA [redacted] *mg* Date dictated 7-16-73

SL 52-4856

Eyes  
Social Security  
Number  
Date of Birth  
Place of Birth  
Employment

Hamel

b7C

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Missouri

[Redacted] General  
Services Administration,  
Military Personnel Records  
Center

U. S. Government  
Identification  
Number

[Redacted]

F B I

Date: 7/16/73

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR  
FROM: ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
7/12/73. DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON. OO: ST. LOUIS

RE ST. LOUIS TEL 7/15/73.

U. S. ARMY RESERVE CONTROL GROUP, WHICH OCCUPIES 3RD AND  
4TH FLOORS, NPRC-M, ADVISED INSTANT DATE OTHER ST. LOUIS SPACE  
HAS BEEN PROCURED IN WHICH TO CARRY OUT ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS  
AS OCCUPANCY OF RECORDS CENTER DOUBTFUL BEFORE A YEAR IF BUILDING  
IS NOT TOTALLY CONDEMNED.

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO DETERMINE WHETHER  
BUILDING CAN BE SAFELY ENTERED AND ULTIMATELY SALVAGED, CONSISTING  
OF FEDERAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS, AND OTHER ENGINEERING PERSONNEL  
INDICATES 6TH FLOOR CAN ONLY BE ENTERED WITH GREAT RISK. SAFETY  
OF BALANCE OF BUILDING QUESTIONABLE; HOWEVER, WATER DAMAGE OF  
RECORDS ON REMAINING FLOORS APPEARS MINIMAL.

ENGINEERING SURVEY HAS BEEN COMPLETED; HOWEVER, INFORMATION  
BEING SUBMITTED TO COMPUTER FOR FINAL ANALYSIS AS TO SAFETY OF  
BUILDING, RESULTS TO BE RETURNED BY 7/18/73.

① St. Louis  
DRS:ihc

(1)

52-4856-32  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

SL 52-4856

PAGE TWO

IN VIEW OF ABOVE NO EXTENSIVE EXAMINATION OF 6TH FLOOR CONDUCTED; HOWEVER, PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS BY FIRE AND ENGINEERING PERSONNEL DESCRIBED SCENE OF COMPLETE DEVASTATION ON 6TH FLOOR WITH ENTIRE ROOF COLLAPSED.

FBI SPACE INTACT AND SECURE WITH NO WATER DAMAGE TO DOCUMENTS BUT MUCH WATER IN SPACE. ENTRY OF BUILDING BELOW 6TH FLOOR FOR OTHER THAN EMERGENT REASONS NOT BEING PERMITTED PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF COMPUTER ANALYSIS. P  
END

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Extent Of Fire At Center Laid To Security Design

By ROBERT CHRISTMAN  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The vault-like security construction of the Military Personnel Records Center has turned out to be the major reason the "fireproof" building blazed out of control for nearly two days, the St. Louis County Fire Marshal said Saturday.

Fire Marshal James E. Holdinghaus said the Records Center fire "shows what fire people in the United States have been trying to get across about fires in high-rise buildings. If the proper safeguards are not built into the building, the firemen don't have a chance. This is a beautiful example."

The blaze, which was discovered early Thursday morning in the center at 9700 Page Avenue, Overland, "amounted to a dump fire six stories high," he said. "Such construction, without adequate built-in safeguards, expects too much of the fire suppression services."

"There are enough things that could have been built in—smoke vents, heat vents in the building or roof, sprinklers, monitoring systems—to prevent this, or at least hold the fire in check until firemen arrive. In that type of building, if the firemen can't get inside, there's no way to control the fire."

Holdinghaus pointed out that the Federal Government was not under state or local jurisdiction, although the Government usually complied with building and fire code requirements.

"I hope the Federal Government is prepared to learn something from this fire," he said.

The General Services Administration manages the building and is the custodial agency for the records kept at the center.

About 20,000,000 military personnel records were housed on the sixth floor of the building, where the fire was concentrated and eventually controlled. Some water damage is believed to have occurred to records on lower floors.

The building's concrete roof, constructed to allow future expansion, held heat and smoke in the building, preventing firemen from entering the building until Friday morning.

Although federal investigating teams are on hand to search for the cause of the blaze and assess damages from fire and water, officials of the GSA predicted it would be at least Tuesday before investigators could reach the top of the building.

By that time, they believe, the building will have stabilized and the heat will be dissipated. Reports that the fire was the work of an arsonist also will be investigated.

Although some federal agencies contend that the records stored on the sixth floor are irreplaceable, the Veterans Administration has said it had separate records for the 13,000,000 veterans and dependents now receiving benefits.

The sixth floor housed records of Army personnel who served between World War I and the mid 1960s and 30,000 containers of files of Army Air Forces personnel in World War II.

Jeffrey Hillelson, regional administrator of GSA, said federal officials had not been able to make a thorough evaluation of the damage to records on other floors that was caused by smoke and water.

"There is three to three and a half inches of water on the first and second floors and as much as five to eight and a half inches on the fourth, fifth and sixth floors," he said.

"We are not in a position to assess the damage to these records until the firemen get out of the building, which possibly could be Sunday," Hillelson said.

Microfilm, computer storage tape decks and personnel files of employees who work at the record center were removed by tractor-trailer truck Thursday and taken to other storage areas.

The GSA has the power to lease private warehouses and request aid from other government installations to store any records it wants to move from the fire-damaged building.

Hillelson said that, to his knowledge, there was no definite contingency plan at the record center to move operations to other locations in the event of major disasters such as the fire.

"We will be getting into that very soon," he said.

"We always have contingency plans which are prepared to meet several types of emergency conditions but a disaster of this sort could not be foreseen," Hillelson said.

The regional administrator said that Arthur Samson, national director of GSA, authorized him to get the record center back into normal operation.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pgs. 4A & 5A, St. Louis-  
POST-DISPATCH,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Date:

7/15/73

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: MAJOR FIRE, NAT'L  
PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER-MILITARY (NPRC-M)  
7/12/73.

Character: DGP-POSSIBLE  
or ARSON

Classification: 52-4856

Submitting Office: St. Louis

☒ Being Investigated

62-4856-33

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
JUL 16 1973  
FBI - ST. LOUIS

b7C

possible.

"As part of that order, I have appointed an ad hoc committee to study all facets of the fire and to make recommendations," Hillelson said.

Employees of the center have been placed on administrative leave with pay until they can return to work.

Dee A. Patterson, acting regional commissioner of public buildings service for GSA, was appointed chairman of the committee.

Patterson, who was reached by telephone at his Kansas City, Kan. home, said he had flown to St. Louis Thursday to survey the fire and the damage.

However, he said he did not obtain sufficient information that would indicate the specific areas his committee should investigate first.

Patterson said he will try to convene the committee in St. Louis on Monday or Tuesday to begin its work.

Other members of the committee include J. C. Spradley, director of design and construction division of GSA; Wendell Sisk, chief of the GSA acquisition branch; Harold Lowe, special assistant to the regional administrator; and James L. Kealing, regional counsel.

Kenneth Bollard, comptroller of reserve component of the Army personnel and administration center, and Forrest Weir of the office of federal records also were named to the committee.

The center, costing \$12,574,850 in the early 1950s, contains about 1,300,000 square feet of space. It took about two years to build and was completed in 1956.

One of the building's architects, George E. Kassabaum, said Saturday he was at a loss to explain how the building ever caught fire or managed to burn for several days.

"To me, it's inconceivable that this could happen," said Kassabaum, one of the members of Hellmuth Obata & Kassabaum architectural firm.

"I don't know what the filing practices or housekeeping practices are now, but when the building was constructed, all material was to be filed in steel filing cabinets. We designed the building so that one standard filing cabinet could be placed atop another. If that's the way they were doing things, what was available to burn?"

Kassabaum said he suggested the use of a sprinkler system throughout the building. However, the suggestion was vetoed

by the Army Corps of Engineers, which was in charge of the construction, and the Army, which was to use the facility.

"We toured several other such storage installations around the country," Kassabaum said, "and none of them had sprinkler systems. Our clients (the Corps and the Army) said water was their worst enemy, because it packed paper together and made ink run. They said water damage was much more severe than any fire could be. We proposed the sprinklers as an automatic

assumption, because the building was to be used for paper storage."

Kassabaum said that no electronic surveillance system was built into the building either because such sophisticated detection systems were not available in those days. He said the building was designed to be guarded through constant personal surveillance.

When told of suggestion made by Holdinghaus to vent the fire through the roof to make the concrete roof more accessible, Kassabaum said the

design specifications didn't call for anything like that.

"The idea was to have a s-

ture building. The Army didn't want a building that someone could get on the roof and chop

holes to get inside. That roof had to be built to withstand additional stories if the government ever wanted to expand."

Kassabaum said the building complied with the building and fire codes in St. Louis County

and Overland when it was constructed.

"But fire codes primarily are concerned with protecting lives. Thus, there aren't too many codes even today that require something to protect the contents of a building," he said.

Although 10 St. Louis County fire departments and a St. Louis company were pressed into service to fight the blaze, University City Fire Chief James Harvey said the county municipalities involved still were well protected.

"I believe we could have handled other fire situations in the county through our reciprocal aid agreements with other departments that weren't involved in the Record Center fire," he said. "The county, collectively, has more fire apparatus than the city."

Olivette Fire Chief Joseph Fitzmaurice, who sent one pumper to the fire scene, said the city's other fire apparatus responded to alarms in Olivette and Creve Coeur during the Overland crisis.

Fitzmaurice said the fire posed no special problems for fire fighters, "it was just one of those dogs that was hard to get to."

The General Services Administration, which took over ownership of the building in 1960, had scheduled the installation of a complete sprinkler system in the building beginning July 1975.

The first floor and part of the second floors already have sprinkler systems, the GSA said.

The GSA is "cautiously opti-

mistic" about water damage in the building.

"One of the reasons is that the intense heat from the fire helped keep the fifth floor drier than we anticipated. Also, all the water has been draining through stairwells, heating ducts, and elevator shafts, and did not flood the main flooring as badly as we thought.

"Most filing cabinets are raised a short distance off the floor, which may also help substantially in reducing damage," the GSA spokesman in Washington said.

On the fifth floor are Navy and Marine personnel records dating from 1885. The fourth floor contains records of Army reservists both active and inactive, and two big computer valued at \$1,200,000 to handle payrolls and to locate records elsewhere in the building.

The third floor is used by the Army also for employe stations and administration.

Army records from 1960 to the present; Navy and Marine records from 1963 to the present, and Air Force records from 1964 to the present are housed on the second floor. The first floor is for processing and administration.

The Records Center was once called the nation's biggest filing cabinet. The building is 728 feet long by 282 feet wide, and contains 1,349,148 square feet of floor space including the basement. A cafeteria in an adjoining one-story building accommodates 800 persons at one time.

There are seven acres of glass windows.

The Records Center provides

veterans and other authorized persons and agencies with verification of military service for Social Security benefits, forwards of original records to the Veterans Administration for adjudication of claims, handles requests for replacement of discharge certificates, provides information for pensions, and checks on decorations and awards that are due former servicemen.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/13/73

Date of transcription

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, was contacted at his residence. After being informed of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the reason for the interview, he provided the following information:

He has been an employee of the General Services Administration (GSA) since being discharged from the Army in 1965. He is currently [redacted] in the File Perfection Task Force and his immediate supervisor is [redacted]

In his capacity as supervisor he has a group which contains nine file clerks. These file clerks normally work on the 2nd floor file area of the Records Center. [redacted] advised that the nine file clerks he has under him are students who are part-time Summer hires. He advised that most of these people are very conscientious and good workers, and he is sure that they would not have anything to do with arson. [redacted] advised that on the evening in question none of his employees ventured above the 2nd floor with the exception of the lunch break, at which time several went to the vending machines for lunch on the fifth floor. b7C

[redacted] advised that at approximately 12:10 A.M. he brought his group from the 2nd floor to the 1st floor via the East freight elevator. During this time he was not aware of any smoke in the elevator shafts. At approximately 12:25 A.M. he and his group were released from work and upon entering the hallway, he smelled what appeared to be smoke. He then ventured to the East freight elevator and saw smoke in the elevator shaft. At this time he went to the 3rd floor in an attempt to locate the fire but had to return to the 2nd floor because of the large amounts of smoke in the hallway.

[redacted] advised that there is a small number of individuals who work on the night shift, and he knows most of them by face only. He advised that on the evening in question he did not see anyone who did not belong

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 34  
by SA [redacted] :kmt Date dictated 7/13/73



SL 52-4856  
AJR:kmt

in the area and observed nothing which could be construed as being suspicious. [ ] advised that he has not heard of anyone being dissatisfied or make any threats to destroy Government property.

He advised that wiring in the building, basically wiring to the window fans, should be checked because he is aware that on numerous floors wires leading to these fans or the fans themselves are faulty.

He advised that to his knowledge the only individuals who have the ability to rove the entire Records Center area are the custodians.

When questioned further [ ] advised that after returning to the 2nd floor and exiting through the West door, he observed an individual whom he had never seen before standing outside on the steps. He failed to observe an identification badge on this individual. He described the individual as follows: b7C

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	Early 30s
Height	Approximately 5'10"
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Black
Complexion	Fair
Clothing	Yellow shirt and dark tie

After observing the individual [ ] then went to the South side of the building with [ ] to observe the fire and the above individual was not observed at any other time during the evening.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted] was contacted at his residence at [redacted] Missouri. He was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the reason for the interview, after which he provided the following information:

He has been employed by the General Services Administration (GSA) for approximately 32 years and is currently assigned to the Military Personnel Records Center at 9700 Page Boulevard. He is currently [redacted] for a group identified as the File Perfection Task Force. He currently has one assistant, two supervisors, and four control clerks who are permanent Civil Service employees. The group also has 17 college students who are hired only for the Summer months. [redacted] advised that the normal working hours for his group are from 4:00 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. with 15" breaks at 6:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M. The group has a lunch break from 8:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. [redacted] advised that his Task Force group works mainly on the 1st floor and 2nd floor area of the Records Center. On the night in question no one from his group worked above the 2nd floor. The only exception to this would be during the lunch break people under his control might go to the 5th floor canteen area to obtain lunch. b7C

[redacted] advised that normally at approximately 12:10 A.M. the individuals in his Task Force who are on the 2nd floor return to the 1st floor via the freight elevator at the East end of the Records Center. Upon the employees' return, they clean up and then ride the escalator to the 2nd floor where they sign out at the West door.

[redacted] advised that none of his employees complained about smoke in the elevator upon their return to the 1st floor at 12:10 A.M. At approximately 12:27 A.M. [redacted] released his employees to sign out. Upon entering the hallway next to the freight elevator he smelled what appeared to be smoke. Upon investigating, he observed that the elevator shaft contained smoke. At this point he

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-35  
 by SA [redacted] SA [redacted] knt Date dictated 7/13/73

SL 52-4856

AJR:kmt

yelled to a guard that there was a fire somewhere in the building. [redacted] and a [redacted] then rode the freight elevator to the 3rd floor in an attempt to locate the fire. Upon arriving at the 3rd floor he observed that the hallway was completely filled with smoke and they could not venture any further.

b7C

[redacted] advised that to his knowledge there have been numerous disciplinary problems with individuals who are on the janitorial staff at the Records Center. He advised that these individuals have access to every room in the Center.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription **7/16/73**

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] stated that she is employed by the U.S. Army, Office of the Adjutant General as a [redacted] She works in the Publications Center located at 1655 Woodson Road. [redacted] advised that she works from 11:15 PM through 7:45 AM and that she did work on the night of July 11 through 12, 1973.

b7C

[redacted] advised that she and a co-worker, [redacted] heard about the fire from a computer operator who works the second shift, [redacted] She and [redacted] proceeded to the record center building by automobile and parked on the east parking lot. [redacted] stated that when she saw the fire it appeared to her to be in three locations on the sixth floor. She advised that on their way to the record center from their office building there were no unusual vehicles noticed and neither noticed any unusual occurrences. She advised that she is not familiar with very many people working at the record center.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Race:  
Sex:  
Date of birth:  
Place of birth:  
Social security  
account number:  
Automobile:

Negro  
Female

[redacted]  
[redacted] Illinois  
[redacted]

1963 Plymouth Valiant, red  
convertible with white top,  
1973 Missouri license [redacted]

Interviewed on **7/13/73** at **University City, Mo.** File # **SL 52-4856-36**  
by SA **[redacted]** cw Date dictated **7/13/73**

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7-16-73

[redacted] was interviewed at his home at [redacted] Missouri and furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised that he is a [redacted] at the National Personnel Records Center - Military and worked the 4 P.M. to 12 P.M. shift on July 11, 1973.

[redacted] stated that on the night of July 11, 1973, 15 to 20 minutes after midnight, [redacted] a guard at the Records Center, told him there was a fire on the 5th or 6th floor. [redacted] stated that he was instructed to stay at the Records Center until 3 A.M.

[redacted] stated that on the night of July 11, 1973, the following people worked the 4 P.M. to 12 P.M. shift on the 6th floor at the Records Center:

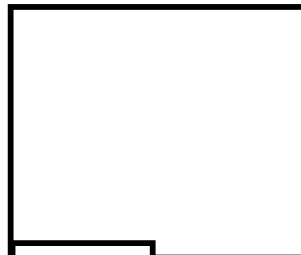


b7C

[redacted] (last name unknown), a student aid

Another student aid, name unknown, also worked that shift.

[redacted] advised that the following individuals worked on the 5th floor on the night of July 11, 1973:



[redacted] stated that there possibly was another person

Interviewed on 7-12-73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856

by BA SA [redacted] BLC:ss Date dictated 7-16-73

SL 52-4856

working on the 5th floor that night but if so he could not recall who it was.

[ ] stated that of the above mentioned people he does not suspect any of them of setting a fire at the Records Center.

[ ] stated that on the night of July 11, 1973 he was on the 5th or 6th floor at approximately 10:30 P.M. and at that time did not smell any smoke, see any strangers or anything unusual.

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7-16-73

[redacted]  
Missouri, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised that he is a [redacted] at the National Personnel Records Center - Military, St. Louis, and worked the 4 P.M. to 12 P.M. shift on the night of July 11, 1973. [redacted] advised that he only worked on the third floor on that date and never went to the 5th or 6th floors during his shift.

[redacted] stated that he knew of no one that might set a fire in the building; however, would notify the FBI immediately if he learned of anyone. [redacted] advised that he had worked at the Record Center for 25 years.

[redacted] is a black male, age 56, height 5'8", weight 140 pounds.

b7C

Interviewed on 7-12-73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856  
by SA [redacted] SA [redacted] BLC:ss Date dictated 7-16-73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/17/73

[ ] was contacted at his residence, 5932A Ridge Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri and provided the following information:

He is employed as a [ ] by the General Services Administration and works at the Military Record Center on Page Avenue in Overland, Missouri. He reported to work at approximately 3:45 p.m. on July 11, 1973 and was assigned to his usual position of cleaning the bathrooms on the fifth floor. During the time that he started and the time that he was forced to leave his area he spent all but 15 minutes on the fifth floor. He said that besides him on the fifth floor he knew of two other individuals, [ ] who usually cleans on the east end of the fifth floor and a man named [ ] who cleans on the west end of the fifth floor.

During the evening he was unaware of any unusual activities nor did he have the occasion to visit the sixth floor of the building. [ ] added, however, that a snack bar is located on the fifth floor and that this area is visited by many people during the course of the day and evening.

b7C

[ ] added that he has been employed with the government since 1942 and has worked at the Record Center since it opened. He could not identify any one individual or group of individuals who he might feel would be responsible for the fire at the Record Center.

[ ] also stated that he was born on [ ] and that he is 5' 6" and weighs 140 pounds with black hair and brown eyes and that he is a Negro male.

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 39  
by SA [ ] :vls Date dictated 7/16/73



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/17/73

[redacted] was contacted at his residence, [redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] and provided the following information:

He is employed by the Univac Corporation which is a Division of Sperry Rand and that the main office is located at 4100 Lindell in St. Louis. He added that Univac's largest installation is located at the Military Record Center in Overland, Missouri. He stated because of this, he uses this area as a starting point because most of his work involves the computer at the Record Center. [redacted] added, however, that he is also on call during his working hours to report to other businesses if problems occur with their computers.

On Wednesday, July 11, 1973, he reported to work at the Military Record Center at approximately 3:45 p.m. At 5:00 p.m., he left the building in order to go to another business that was experiencing trouble with their computer installation and he did not return to the Record Center. He stated the Univac Computer is located on the fourth floor and that he and his associates have nothing to do with the actual business operations of the government but are only there to maintain services and repair the computer. He stated that the computer operators are employed by the government and that he has no close working relationship with them and, therefore, does not know any of them. b7C

[redacted] stated that since he has worked at the Military Record Center, he has never heard of any individual or of any groups who would attempt to sabotage the operation of the Record Center or who may have been responsible for any fires at the Record Center in the past.

The following is a description of [redacted]

Name [redacted]

Race

White

Interviewed on 7/13/73 at St. Louis County, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-40  
by SA [redacted] :vls Date dictated 7/16/73

SL 52-4856

Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Height	5' 11"
Weight	160
Hair	Black
Eyes	Blue

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/17/73

[redacted] was contacted at his residence. [redacted] Illinois, telephone number [redacted]. It was noted at the beginning of the interview that from [redacted] was [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he has been employed at the Military Record Center for six years as a [redacted] and that he reported to work on Wednesday, July 12, 1973 at 3:30 p.m. His usual working hours are from 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. and he is usually assigned to clean the office in Section 5180 North [redacted] the fifth floor. He spent the whole evening on the fifth floor and at approximately 12:12 a.m., he saw smoke in the area around the east freight elevator bellowing from the sixth floor. He went to the escalator and looked up and saw smoke on the sixth floor. At that same time a fellow custodial worker, [redacted] who was assigned to the fourth floor also appeared and saw the smoke. He, [redacted] immediately notified [redacted] of the Federal Protection Service of the smoke that he saw. Prior to that time he did not notice nor smell any smoke in his area. He added that the only time he left the fifth floor was at approximately 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. when he went to the maintenance room on the first floor.

b7C

He stated besides himself, he knew of three other individuals working on the fifth floor, [redacted] a man named [redacted] and [redacted]. He also stated that at approximately 4:30 [redacted] came to the fourth floor for a short while.

He stated, however, that approximately at 11:30 p.m., he saw [redacted] on the east stairway of the fifth floor. He did not see which way [redacted] went but he thinks that [redacted] was going to the fourth floor to see his [redacted]. He also stated that he had heard that [redacted] had formerly worked for Famous Barr and [redacted].

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at Alton, Illinois File # SL 52-4856  
by SA [redacted] :vls Date dictated 7/16/73

SL 52-4856

He stated that he also heard that [ ] had swept the file area of the sixth floor sometime during the evening of July 12, 1973.

[ ] stated that when he first reported for work on Wednesday, he noticed a large pile on the fifth floor which contained a mop, dust, dirt and loose papers and several cigarette butts nearby. He stated that this was located in the main file section of the fifth floor towards the back.

b7C

[ ] added that he was aware of previous fires and that he heard about the one in the custodial closet on the fifth floor last week. He stated that only members of the custodial staff have the keys to these closets. He also stated that his custodial closet had been broken into once but nothing was missing.

[ ] stated that since he has worked there he has actually made notes of what he felt were faulty electric switches and wires on the fifth floor and that last year rewiring was done on the fifth floor because of an extensive amount of short circuits. He stated that on Wednesday evening he found eight lights out and all of them had bad wires.

He also stated that about two to three years ago there had been a fire in a trash barrel on the sixth floor but had been discovered by [ ] who had extinguished the blaze.

[ ] stated although he could not think of anyone who individually may have been responsible for the fire on July 12, 1973 or any previous fires. He felt that the security in the building was poor and people could be found anywhere in the building including the sixth floor even though they had no business in that part of the building.

[ ] was asked if he had seen or had heard about two youths being on the roof of the Record Center on either Tuesday or Wednesday evening and he stated that as far as he knew there was no way to get to the top of the building from inside.

SL 52-4856

The following is a description of

Name	<input data-bbox="836 504 1079 556" type="text"/>
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	<input data-bbox="852 609 1112 661" type="text"/>
Height	5' 9"
Weight	200
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Social Security Account Number	<input data-bbox="852 756 1112 819" type="text"/>

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/17/73

[redacted] was contacted at his residence, [redacted] Missouri and provided the following information:

He is employed as a [redacted] at the Military Record Center in Overland, Missouri. His usual working hours are from 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. [redacted] stated, however, that he did not work on Wednesday and that he had last been at the Record Center at 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning, July 11, 1973. [redacted] stated that Wednesday night he and his wife along with a fellow worker at the Record Center, [redacted] and [redacted] went for a cruise on the Admiral on the Mississippi River. [redacted] stated that he was on annual leave for Wednesday night.

[redacted] stated that he knows three individuals who are [redacted] and work on the sixth floor. These individuals are as follows:

b7C

the last [redacted] and a man with

He has never heard any of these three individuals complain about the Record Center nor make any threats against it. [redacted] also stated that when he goes to work he has been driving a school boy by the name of [redacted] who is employed at the Record Center for the summer as a [redacted]. He does not know [redacted] last name but that he lives in [redacted] Missouri. [redacted] stated that he does not know any of the custodial employees at the Record Center who could have set the fire and he thinks they are all nice people to work with. [redacted] also stated that he was aware of the previous fires only because of special precautions that were made after they had occurred.

[redacted] stated that he is only working at the Record Center for a little while and has only worked there since October as he is attending school at the

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at Kinloch, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-42  
by SA [redacted] :vls Date dictated 7/16/73

SL 52-4856

University of Missouri at St. Louis in order to attain a Business Administration Degree in Hospital Administration. He added that he presently has a degree in Music.

The following is a description of [REDACTED]

Name	[REDACTED]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Height	5' 5"
Weight	200
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Social Security Account Number	[REDACTED]

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/17/73

[redacted] was contacted at [redacted]  
[redacted] Illinois and provided the following  
information:

He has been employed at the Military Record Center in Overland, Missouri, since May 15, 1973.

He is only employed there for the summer as he is a full-time college student attending the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. This is the first year he has worked at the Record Center. He is employed as a [redacted] and he works from 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. performing these duties. He stated that most of the time his work keeps him on the second floor although he has the chance in the performance of his duties to also work on the first floor. He stated that he has never been to the sixth floor of the building. He also stated that although he usually ~~was~~ on the fifth floor, he thinks that on Wednesday night he and a couple of friends went out to eat at a Burger King Restaurant located nearby.

b7C

[redacted] added that he was unaware of any unusual activities in the building until approximately 12:25 a.m. when he went up to the second floor from the first floor and saw smoke and some firemen. At that time he realized there was a fire in the building and since his employment terminated at 12:30 a.m., he signed out and left. He and several friends then went outside and sat on the grass and watched the fire. He stated that he observed the fire to be located on the sixth floor on the backside of the building approximately in the middle of the building.

[redacted] stated that he was not aware that there had been previous fires in the building nor did he know of anyone who might be responsible for previous fires or the fire that occurred on July 12, 1973.

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at Belleville, [redacted] Mo File # SL 52-4856  
by SA [redacted] :vls Date dictated 7/16/73



SL 52-4856

The following is a description of [REDACTED]  
obtained through interview:

Name	[REDACTED]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Height	5' 7"
Weight	150
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Social Security Account Number	[REDACTED]

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/17/73

[redacted] was contacted at the Office of Sperry Rand Corporation, [redacted] Missouri and provided the following information:

He is employed as a Univac [redacted] by Sperry Rand and that his duties occasionally take him to the Military Record Center in Overland, Missouri. He stated that he was there on Wednesday at approximately 1:00 p.m. and stayed there for approximately ten minutes. His purpose at that time was to pick up a piece of test equipment in order that he might test the equipment at another computer installation.

[redacted] stated that he works various shifts but does not spend all of his time at the Record Center. He does not associate with the Government employees at the Record Center and has no knowledge of their activities nor could he provide any possible identity to anyone who might have been responsible for the fire at the Record Center.

The following is a description of [redacted]

b7C

Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Height	6' 1"
Weight	150
Hair	Blond
Eyes	Blue
Social Security Account Number	[redacted]
Address	[redacted] Missouri
Telephone	[redacted]

Interviewed on 7/13/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 *44*

by SA [redacted] :vls Date dictated 7/16/73

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/17/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, telephone number [redacted] employee at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC), 9700 Page Boulevard, Overland, Missouri) was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and that he was being re-interviewed concerning his knowledge of the fire that occurred at MPRC on July 12, 1973.

[redacted] advised that he is a Summer employee at MPRC and [redacted] He stated that he signed in for work at 3:45 P.M. on July 11, 1973 and signed out at 12:30 A.M. on July 12, 1973.

b7C

He stated that after checking in, he went to [redacted] office and received his assignment for the day. He stated that from 4:00 to 4:30 P.M. he emptied trash cans on the first floor. He advised that at 4:30 P.M. he received his assignment from [redacted] to mop and buff the 6th floor at the East end on the North side of the building.

[redacted] advised that he worked in a large room which was ten feet to the right of the passenger elevator on the lefthand side of the hallway. He stated this room is a large room filled with desks and five small offices for secretaries or supervisors.

He advised that he worked with [redacted] and a man who picks up papers and trash on the 6th floor.

He advised that from 5:45 to 6:00 P.M. he took a scheduled break and went to the Snack Bar on the 5th floor with [redacted] and [redacted] He advised that he also saw [redacted] in the Snack Bar. From 7:30 to 8:00 P.M. is a scheduled break for dinner and all persons working with him went to the 1st floor maintenance room to eat. From 9:45 to 10:00 P.M., another scheduled break, [redacted] went to the Snack Bar on the 5th floor and [redacted] and [redacted] stayed in the room in which they were working during this break. He advised that [redacted] came back at approximately 10:00 P.M.

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at Pagedale, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 45  
by SA [redacted] kmt 7/16/73

SL 52-4856  
JNC:kmt

He states that [ ] and [ ] and he left the job at separate times between 6 and 7:00 P.M. to get a drink of water and use the bathroom. He states that the longest any of them were away from each other during this period of time was approximately three minutes.

[ ] stated that at his scheduled lunch break from 7:30 to 8:00 P.M. while on the 1st floor, he went with [ ] employee on the 1st floor to see where he was working that night. He stated that [ ] wanted to show him the place where he was working -- this place being the main switchboard telephone room. He then stated that [ ] accompanied him to the 6th floor at approximately 7:50 P.M. and that [ ] stayed on the 6th floor until 8:00 P.M., at which time he returned to the 1st floor to work.

He states that somewhere between 10:30 and 11:00 P.M. [ ] and [ ] a [ ] (employee) came to the 6th floor and asked [ ] if he knew the whereabouts of a [ ] employee. He advised that [ ] told them he did not know his whereabouts. b7C

He states that at approximately 11:00 P.M. [ ] came to the 6th floor looking for the [ ] worker [ ] inquired about and he asked [ ] if he knew the whereabouts of this worker. [ ] advised that he did not remember the name of the person [ ] was looking for. He also stated that a Negro female with the first name of [ ] came to the 6th floor at 11:00 P.M. to talk to [ ] and he overheard her say to [ ] "It's 11:00 P.M." He states that shortly thereafter this female departed the 6th floor.

[ ] stated that he noticed while working on the 6th floor that the electric clocks in the rooms he worked in were not running. He states that he does not remember at what time these clocks had stopped or if they were plugged in but remembers that they did not have the correct time.

SL 52-4856  
JNC:kmt

[redacted] advised that he and his fellow workers stopped working and left the 6th floor at 11:30 P.M. and all departed the 6th floor on the passenger elevator to return to the 1st floor to clean their equipment and put it away. After cleaning the equipment at 11:45 P.M. he and [redacted] went to another maintenance office on the 1st floor and [redacted] and a Negro male with the last name of [redacted] until 12:15 A.M., at which time they left to go to the East end of the building on the 1st floor to sign out. He stated that on the way to sign out they stopped in a maintenance room by the sign-out desk [redacted] 12:25 A.M. At 12:25 A.M. he and [redacted] left the maintenance room and signed out. b7C

[redacted] states that on the way to the maintenance room [redacted] at 12:20 A.M. he smelled smoke and commented on this. He stated he also smelled smoke at 12:30 A.M. as he passed the passenger elevator after he signed out.

He states that he and a group of men were waiting on the 1st floor for the guard to return so that they could be let out of the building when [redacted] came up to them and stated he wanted [redacted] to stay because there was a fire on the 5th floor and it needed to be located and put out. He states that he stayed because he worked with [redacted] and wanted to help [redacted] find the fire and that [redacted] stayed with him because [redacted]

[redacted] advised that he, [redacted] and another man who he did not know got on the freight elevator at the West end of the building and went to the 5th floor.

SL 52-4856  
JNC:kmt

He states that when the door opened on the 5th floor all they could see was smoke and no flames. They immediately closed the elevator door and returned to the 1st floor. He stated that [ ] and the other man got out of the elevator and walked towards the door at the East end of the building. He advised that [ ] and he saw a [ ] going up the escalator stairs, which were not running, so they decided to follow him to see if he needed any help. He states that between the 3rd and 4th floors the [ ] turned around and asked them who they were and what they were doing on the escalator stairs. [ ] stated that he advised the [ ] that they worked in the building and wanted to help him if he needed help. He stated the [ ] told them to go back downstairs and get out of the building. He states that they returned to the 2nd floor and exited from the main entrance to the building.

[ ] stated that on the way out he met firemen coming in and he told them that the 5th floor was full of smoke. He states that after leaving the building he saw [ ] standing in a kind of a daze looking up at the building. [ ] stated that he tried to talk to [ ] but [ ] acted as though he did not hear his questions and remained speechless, just looking up at the building. b7C

He advised that he could not see any flames on the West side of the building so he and [ ] walked around to the South side of the building at 12:50 A.M. and saw flames coming out of a 6th floor window. He states that also on the South side of the building was the man who picks up trash on the 6th floor watching the fire on the 6th floor. He stated that he talked to him concerning the fire. Also on the South side of the building was one fire truck.

SL 52-4856  
JNC:kmt

He advised that at 1:30 A.M. he and [redacted] left the South side of the building and returned to the West side when the man standing with them stated that he was going to move his car from one parking lot to another. He stated that on returning to the West side of the building, he told [redacted] and the men talking with them that they could see the flames coming out of the building on the South side and all these men returned with him at 1:35 A.M. to the South side of the building to look at the flames coming out of the 6th floor windows. b7C

He stated that at 2:20 A.M. it looked as though the fire was under control. He and [redacted] went to the West end of the building, got into their car and started to depart for home. He stated that at this time he was stopped by a Federal security guard and asked who he was and why he was in the area. He advised that he told the guard he was an employee in the building and had been watching the fire from outside the building. He stated that the guard took his name and let him depart for home.

[redacted] stated that he has never been on the roof of MPRC and does not have any knowledge of anyone going to the roof or being on the roof the day before the fire or the day of the fire. He also advised that he does not know of anyone who may have wanted to start this fire or would have a reason to start this fire.

[redacted] advised that there are eight doors lettered A through H that lead to stairways on the 6th floor. He states that doors A, B, D, F, and G are doorways that lead to the roof and each doorway requires a key before it can be opened.

SL 52-4856

JNC:kmt

He also stated that he has never gone to the file room area on the 6th floor and that he has only worked on the 6th floor one other time on a special request from [REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED] advised that he believes that the floor stripper, which is a liquid that he works with to clean the floor, is a flammable liquid.

He stated that he does not know of any places on the 6th floor where employees for MPRC go to hide when they are supposed to be working. He states that he has never smoked in a file area nor has he seen any other employee do so.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7-16-73

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, a summer employee at the Military Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page, Overland, Missouri, furnished the following information:

[redacted] began working as a [redacted] at the Military Personnel Records Center on May 15, 1973 [redacted] is a student at Duke University and is employed in a summer program at the Records Center.

On July 11, 1973, [redacted] began work at approximately 4:00 P.M. He was assigned to the second floor of the building and remained there throughout the day. His only departure from the second floor of this building was during his lunch hour when he went to the fifth floor. This occurred at approximately 8:00 P.M. He returned to the second floor at approximately 8:30 P.M. [redacted] could furnish no information regarding the fire at this location nor could he offer any suspects in this matter. [redacted] left the building at approximately 12:25 A.M.

b7C

The following description of [redacted] was obtained from observation and interview:

Name	[redacted]
Address	[redacted] Missouri
Telephone	[redacted]
Social Security Number	[redacted]
Government Identification Number	[redacted]
Hair	Blonde
Eyes	Blue
Height	5'11"
Weight	155
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Place of Birth	[redacted] Iowa

Interviewed on 7-13-73 at Brentwood, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 46  
by SA [redacted] MJJ:ss Date dictated 7-16-73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7-16-73

[redacted] Illinois, telephone [redacted] was contacted at her residence regarding the whereabouts of [redacted] whose address was listed as [redacted] advised that she had resided at this residence for approximately six weeks and had purchased this house from Halloran Real Estate, Cahokia, Illinois, telephone 337-5400. She advised that she did not know one [redacted] and that she had been informed by a neighbor that prior to her purchasing this residence it had been unoccupied for approximately one year. She related that she is also an employee of the Federal Records Center, 9700 Page, St. Louis, Missouri and was employed at this location for three years. [redacted] advised that she works on the first floor of the Federal Records Center and her working hours are from 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and she is classified as a [redacted] b7C

She also advised that she had heard no conversation to indicate that the fire at the Federal Records Center had been set by anyone. She also advised that she had heard no conversation which would indicate that anyone might be planning to deliberately set fire to this building.

[redacted] advised that [redacted]

[redacted] advised that she reported to work on July 12, 1973 after she had heard of the building being on fire; however, returned to her residence when no employees could be admitted.

Interviewed on 7-12-73 at Centreville, Illinois File # SL 52-4856 47  
by SA [redacted] SS [redacted] Date dictated 7-16-73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7-16-73

[redacted] telephone  
[redacted] was contacted at the residence of her parents,  
[redacted] telephone  
[redacted] relative to any information she might have  
regarding the fire at the Federal Records Center (FRC),  
on the morning of July 12, 1973.

b7C

[redacted] advised that she was employed the previous  
evening with work hours from 4:00 P.M. on July 11, 1973  
through 12:30 A.M. on July 12, 1973. She advised that  
her first knowledge of the fire was on departing when  
she observed the firemen and police on the premises.

[redacted] advised that she worked on the first floor  
in Room 1136 [redacted]

[redacted] She related that she is a  
[redacted] is married to [redacted]

b7C

Interviewed on 7-12-73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-48  
by SA [redacted] SS [redacted] Date dictated 7-16-73

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/17/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed and supplied the following information:

[redacted] advised she has been an employee of the record center located at 9700 Page Blvd., Overland, Missouri since June 11, 1973. [redacted] states her principal duties are that of [redacted] and she ~~primarily~~ works on the second floor of the building.

[redacted] advised that on July 11, 1973, she performed a 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM shift. To the best of her knowledge she stated that she observed nothing out of the ordinary take place during the course of the evening. She advised for the major portion of the evening she was on the second floor where she was assigned. [redacted] states that at approximately 12:30 AM while proceeding to the west side of the building on the second floor to sign out she smelled smoke. She was not sure where the smoke was emanating from. [redacted] states she signed out as she usually does and left then for home without any indication of the seriousness of the fire that was taking place at the center. b7C

[redacted] further advised she had no idea how the fire could have started, and could think of no individuals whom she feels could be responsible for starting a fire at the record center.

7/13/73

Mehlville, Missouri

SL 52-4856 48

Interviewed on

SA PHILIP GRIVAS: cw

7/16/73

by

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date dictated July 17, 1973

THOMAS J. WRINKLE, 6229A Columbia, was interviewed at the Olive Street News, 3608 Olive Street, and provided the following information regarding his presence at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC) on July 11, 1973.

He stated that he had talked to a friend of his, MICHAEL GRANNEY, about obtaining information regarding his GED which he obtained while in the service. He was told by GRANNEY that there was a possibility that his military record would be at the MPRC and that he, GRANNEY, would take him there to find out if his record was, in fact, at the Records Center. They went to the Records Center on July 11, 1973, arriving there at approximately 9:15 A.M. He stated that they could not find any of his records there and went to the fourth floor where they talked to a chaplain friend of MIKE's. While in the chaplain's office, they used the telephone. They left the chaplain's office and the Center at approximately 11:00 A.M.

## WRINKLE is described as follows:

Name	THOMAS J. WRINKLE
Address	6229A Columbia, St. Louis, Missouri
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	6'1"
Weight	175
Date, place of birth	October 28, 1945, St. Louis, Missouri
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Social Security Number	493-46-4907
Employed	Olive Street News, 3608 Olive, St. Louis, Missouri

Interviewed on 7/13/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-50  
by SA HERMAN S. NICHOLS :pdp Date dictated 7/17/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 17, 1973

[redacted] furnished the following information regarding the fire on July 12, 1973, at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC), Overland, Missouri.

[redacted] stated she is a [redacted] year old college student who was hired to work during the summer at the MPRC on May 14, 1973, as a [redacted]. Her usual work hours are from 4:00 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. weekdays. She stated that she worked her usual shift on July 11, 1973, where she was confined mostly to the first floor. She added, however, that she usually works on the second floor and eats lunch at the snackbar located on the fifth floor. She added that as she was leaving work at approximately 12:30 A.M., July 12, 1973, she had heard that a fire had started on the sixth floor of the building and noticed the fire trucks, etc., but had not been advised prior to 12:30 that she or any of her co-workers would have to leave the building.

b7C

[redacted] finally stated she has no idea who could have possibly started the fire.

The following information was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	[redacted]
Date of birth	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]
	Missouri [redacted]
MPRC Badge number	[redacted]
Social Security Number	[redacted]
Height	5'2"
Weight	110
Eyes	Blue
Sex	Female
Race	White

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at Webster Groves, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-51  
by SA [redacted] :pdp Date dictated 7/17/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/17/73

[redacted] telephone number [redacted] provided the following information with regard to the fire at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC) on July 12, 1973:

b7C

[redacted] stated that at approximately 10:50 to 11:10 P.M. on the night of July 11, 1973 he was at Nelson's Driving Range which is located West of MPRC. While at the range he could observe the West side of the Center where he saw some six to eight rows of fluorescent lights burning on the 6th floor. He stated that he recalls this because to the best of his knowledge he could not recall seeing that amount of lights on the top floor of the Records Center at that time of night before. He added that he goes to the Driving Range once or twice a week and that this was the first time he had noticed any lights on the upper floor of the building. He stated that when he goes to the Range he usually arrives at 10:30 P.M. and leaves at approximately 11:15 P.M. He stated that he contacted the Mary Ridge Police Department who told him to contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

b7C

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at [redacted] Missouri File # SL 52-4856 52  
by SA [redacted] amt Date dictated 7/17/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 17, 1973

[redacted]  
[redacted] Illinois, provided the following information regarding the fire at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC) on July 12, 1973:

[redacted] stated that he is a [redacted] for the Sperry Univac Company, located at 4100 Lindell Boulevard. He stated [redacted] the Univac computer in use on the fourth floor at the MPRC. [redacted] stated on July 12, 1973, he signed in at 12:20 A.M. and while doing so he heard sirens, stated that he arrived for work at approximately the same time as the fire trucks. As he was entering the building, he saw a black female who he knows only as [redacted], who works on the fourth floor as a [redacted]. She told him that she had smelled smoke in the computer room and had asked [redacted] to call the guard and find out where the smoke was coming from. He was later told by someone that there was a fire on the sixth floor and that the fire department was on the way. While still in the entryway to the building and obtaining his visitor's badge, he asked [redacted] if they had shut down the computers on the fourth floor and she said no. He left the guard's desk and went to the fourth floor where he talked to [redacted] and a fireman who were standing in the hallway discussing the fire. He cannot recall what they said, however. He continued stating he went into the computer room where he and [redacted] shut down the computers and returned to the first floor and eventually left the building at approximately 3:00 A.M.

b7C

[redacted] stated the fire apparently had started prior to his arrival at MPRC and that he had seen fires in the past located in the restrooms from time to time and has heard of others. He stated that in regard to the fires in the past, it seemed to him that they always occurred after the second shift had left. The AM shift, which is from approximately midnight to 8:00 A.M., contains only computer operations people and a security force. This amounts to no more than 13 people at the Records Center during the early morning hours. This being

interviewed on 7/13/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 53  
by SA [redacted] :pdp Date dictated 7/17/73



SL 52-4856

the case, any strangers in the building would be noticed. He said he has no idea who might have started the fire. At approximately 6:30 A.M. he returned to the MPRC for a meeting with the Data Processing Department [redacted] in the parking lot.

The following information was obtained through interview and observation:

b7C

Name	[redacted]
Date of birth	[redacted]
Social Security Number	[redacted]
Height	5'6"
Weight	140
Eyes	Blue
Race	White
Sex	Male

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 17, 1973

Date dictated

[redacted]  
Missouri, was interviewed at the Olive Street News,  
3608 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri, and provided  
the following information:

[redacted] stated he is employed at the Maintenance  
Department of the Union Electric Company. He added  
that he was employed at the Military Personnel Records  
Center (MPRC) while a Reservist from January, 1973,  
to February, 1973, a total time of approximately six  
weeks. He continued by stating that on the morning of  
July 11, 1973, he and a friend, [redacted] went  
to the MPRC [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] was in the service. At the MPRC they went to the fourth  
floor where they talked to [redacted] He stated  
that they were in the Center for approximately one and  
one-half hours. They arrived at approximately 9:15 A.M.  
and left at approximately 11:00 A.M.

b7C

He contacted the FBI after he heard about the  
fire because he knew his name would be on the guest register  
and that the FBI or someone would be talking to them sooner  
or later.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Name	[redacted]
Height	5'11"
Weight	210
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Date of birth	[redacted]
Social Security Number	[redacted]

Interviewed on 7/13/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 *54*  
by SA [redacted] : pdp Date dictated 7/17/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/17/73

Date of transcription \_\_\_\_\_

[redacted] furnished  
the following information:

[redacted] stated that he is employed at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC). He works the evening shift from 4:00 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. On July 11, 1973 he worked his regular shift and left at 12:30 A.M. He stated that as he was leaving he heard that there was a fire at the Center but knows nothing more with regard to the fire. He stated that he usually works on the 4th floor, did not work on the 6th floor at all the night of July 11, and went home right after his shift ended. He also stated that he can think of no one who would wish to start a fire at the Center and could furnish no information as to the fire itself.

The following information was obtained through  
interview and observation:

b7C

Name	[redacted] (no middle name) [redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Height	5'7"
Weight	215 pounds
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Place of Birth	[redacted] Mississippi
MPRC Badge Number	[redacted]
Social Security	[redacted]
Account Number	[redacted]
Employment	MPRC [redacted]

interviewed on 7/17/73 at Brentwood, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 55  
by SA HERMAN S. NICHOLS:kmt Date dictated 7/17/73

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 17/73

On July 16, 1973, [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Missouri, and furnished the following information:

On the night of July 14, 1973, he walked to work and arrived at approximately 4:00 p.m. [redacted] advised that [redacted] put him with [redacted] working on the first floor for the first part of the night and later in the night with [redacted] still on the first floor. [redacted] stated that he did not work with [redacted] on the sixth floor at any time that night or any other night.

[redacted] stated that when he went up to the fifth floor for break at around seven thirty, he walked up to the sixth floor with [redacted] to talk to him, but left after his break and did not go back up.

b7C

[redacted] advised that [redacted] always gave him a ride home and that on July 11, 1973, they were going to the car at approximately 2:20 p.m., after watching the fire, and were stopped by a security guard who asked them who they were and what they were doing. After telling the security guard that they worked in the building and that they had stayed to watch the fire, they were allowed to leave.

Interviewed on July 16/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 *56*  
by SA [redacted] :ls1 Date dictated July 17/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 17/73

On July 12, 1973, [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Missouri, and furnished the following information:

[redacted] stated that on the night of July 11, 1973, he worked the 4:00 to 12:30 p.m. shift at the National Personnel Records Center when he had been employed for approximately seven months as a custodial employee.

[redacted] advised that he worked in the second and third floors the previous night and his only occasion to go to the fifth floor was for a break. [redacted] stated that he did not see anyone go to the sixth floor during the night and did not know who was working up there that night. [redacted] further advised that he knew most of the people working the night shift and did not see anyone who was not usually working at night.

b7C

[redacted] stated that [redacted] left the building at approximately 11:00 and had heard no mention of a fire at that time and had detected no smoke.

[redacted] provided the following background information:

Name:	[redacted]
DOB:	[redacted]
POB:	[redacted] Missouri
Height:	6'1 1/2"
Weight:	175 pounds
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Brown
Education:	Normandy High School, St. Louis, Missouri
Residence:	[redacted] Missouri
Telephone number:	[redacted]

Interviewed on July 12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 57  
by SAs [redacted] PER:ls1 Date dictated July 17/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 17/73

On July 12, 1973, [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Missouri, and furnished the following information:

[redacted] stated that on the night of July 11, 1973, he worked the 4:00 to 12:30 p.m. shift at the National Personnel Records Center and was just about to leave the building when he heard that a fire had broken out. [redacted] advised that he worked on the first floor that night and his only occasion to go to the top two floors that night was to go to the fifth floor at approximately 7:30 p.m. for a break.

[redacted] stated that the only people he knew who worked on the sixth floor were [redacted] and [redacted] whose last name he did not know. [redacted] saw these individuals go upstairs at 5:00 p.m. and saw them come down at approximately 11:30 p.m.

[redacted] advised that his job was [redacted] and he had been doing that since starting work at the Records Center on June 18, 1973. [redacted] stated that he did not see anyone who did not work at the Records Center.

b7C

[redacted] provided the following background information:

Name:	[redacted]
DOB:	[redacted]
POB:	[redacted] Missouri
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Blue
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	162 pounds
Education:	[redacted] High School, St. Louis, Missouri
Residence:	[redacted], Missouri
Telephone number	[redacted]

Interviewed on July 12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 *58*

SAs

PER:ls1

July 17/73

by

Date dictated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# All not lost in smoke of records, officials say

By **ANDREW WILSON**  
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

While records destroyed in the fire at the Military Personnel Records Center here are "a great loss," the Veterans Administration has other sources of information "that will minimize any chance of a person losing a legitimate claim," a Veterans Administration spokesman said Friday.

The fire that raged through the two-block-long building at 9700 Page ave. in Overland for more than 24 hours finally was brought under control Friday morning.

The cause of the fire was undetermined, and an arson investigation was being conducted.

Flames are believed to have destroyed almost all of the Army's records on servicemen retired or discharged from 1912 to the early 1960s. These records were stored on the sixth floor, where much of the fire was concentrated.

**THE DEPARTMENT** of Defense also reported that records of more than 300,000 persons released from the Army in the last three years were stored on the fire-damaged sixth floor, including records of some cases pending before the Army Discharge Review Board. The records were not formal discharge papers, but release forms placing servicemen on inactive reserve.

Brig. Gen. Louis Prost, commander of the U.S. Army Reserve Component, Personnel and Administration Center, said less than 1 per cent of the records involved cases pending before the review board.

Some records of persons dishonorably discharged from the Army would be in Army morning reports on file with other agencies, he said.

Dishonorably discharged persons who tried to contest their cases would cause problems

if their records were destroyed because the morning reports do not detail the circumstances of their release from service, Prost said.

**AT A PRESS** conference officials of the General Services Administration were questioned closely about the building's design. The record center has no fire walls to prevent flames from spreading and has sprinkler systems on only the first and part of the second floors.

James B. Rhoads, a U. S. archivist from Washington, D.C., said the GSA did not design the building and that it was transferred from the aegis of the Department of Defense.

Asked if he would store important documents in any building that did not have fire safeguards, regardless of the designer, Rhoads replied, "Not voluntarily."

Officials denied that any highly sensitive documents or papers relating to national security were lost in the fire.

**THE REVIEW BOARD**, an aide to Symington was told, hears appeals from persons who received "less than honorable" discharges from the Army. The Defense Department told Symington it is "uncertain now what impact will result" if records in such appeals cases are lost.

A spokesman for the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C., told The Globe-Democrat the fire should have "no impact on the 13 million that are currently receiving VA benefits." Records of these persons are filed in 57 Veterans Administration regional offices, 169 hospitals and two insurance centers, he said.

"In addition to these records," the spokesman said, "the VA still has other backup files containing essential information that would facilitate handling of new applications

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pg. 12A, St. Louis  
GLOBE-DEMOCRAT,  
St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 7/14-15/73

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: MAJOR FIRE, NAT'L  
PERSONNEL RECORDS CEN-  
TER - MILITARY (NPRC\_M)  
7/12/73

Character:

or

DGP-POSSIBLE

ARSON

Classification:

Submitting Office:

52-4856

St. Louis

☒ Being Investigated

52-4856-59

Am om

b7C

~~From~~ veterans whose files may have been destroyed in the fires.

"Since 1968 our data processing center at Austin, Tex., has kept computer master records on Vietnam veterans discharged since 1968."

**ALSO IN WASHINGTON**, the Veterans Administration spokesman said, are master computer records on 32 million living and dead veterans of all the armed services. Included are dates, branch of service, character of discharge and other information necessary to process claims on school loans, pensions and medical and hospital care.

The only serious problems, the spokesman said, may be encountered by veterans discharged more than five years ago who make their first claim for some kind of Veterans Administration service. However, he said, most initial claims are filed within five years of discharge, so these cases would be rare.

Even in cases where service-connected disability records might be lost in the fire the Veterans Administration could have other ways of processing a claim, he added, such as checking copies of records kept by veterans, requesting affidavits from doctors in military hospitals or friends and civilian medical treatment records.

**IT WILL BE** more of a problem for the VA processing these claims but not for the

individual veteran, the spokesman said, since other sources will have to be located if needed information is found to be in fire-destroyed records.

"We aren't saying it isn't a great loss," he stressed, "but we're trying to point out that as far as VA records are concerned, there are other records and sources of information that will minimize any chance of a person losing a legitimate claim."

He said widows of veterans who meet certain income criteria are eligible for pension without having a complete record of the veteran's military service. Only the dates of service, already on file with the Veterans Administration, are required, he said.

An advisory committee to study all facets of the fire has been appointed and will convene no later than Tuesday, the GSA announced Friday.

The committee is chaired by Dee A. Patterson, acting regional commissioner of public buildings. Other committee members are J. C. Spradley, director of the design and construction division; Wendell Sisk, chief, acquisition branch; Harold Lowe, special assistant to the regional administrator, and James L. Kealing, regional counsel. Kenneth Bollard, comptroller of the reserve component at the center, and Forrest Weir, office of federal records, will serve as ex-officio committee members.



F B I

Date: 7/17/73

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR  
FROM: ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
7/12/73. DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON. OO: ST. LOUIS.

ACCESS FOR EXAMINATION TO 6TH FLOOR, NPRC-M, GAINED [REDACTED]  
INSTANT DATE. THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFLECTS COMPLETE DEVASTATION  
OF 6TH FLOOR WITH SMALL PERCENT OF RECORDS PARTIALLY <sup>SALVAGEABLE</sup> [REDACTED]  
AND BALANCE TOTALLY DESTROYED.

NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF ARSON UNCOVERED. PROBABLY ORIGINAL  
SITE OF FIRE DETERMINED TO BE NEAR CENTER OF BUILDING WHICH IS  
PRESENTLY BURIED UNDER TONS OF CONCRETE IN 2 TO 3 FEET OF WET  
CHARRED RUBBLE FROM BURNED RECORDS.

DUE TO COLLAPSED NATURE OF ROOF WHICH WAS CONSTRUCTED OF  
10 INCHES OF CONCRETE, THOROUGH EXAMINATION FOR ARSON WILL NOT BE  
POSSIBLE AS ORIGINAL FIRE SITE PERMANENTLY INACCESSIBLE AND WILL  
BE DEMOLISHED AS THE 6TH FLOOR IS REMOVED <sup>BY</sup> [REDACTED] HEAVY CONSTRUCTION  
EQUIPMENT.

OUTLOOK FOR BALANCE OF BUILDING APPEARS MORE FAVORABLE; HOWEVER,  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS' CORE SAMPLES NOT IN AND FINAL

1 St. Louis  
DRS:lhc  
(1)

52-4856-60  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

SL 52-4856

PAGE TWO

DETERMINATION STILL TO BE MADE. TENTATIVE PLANS OF RECORDS INCLUDE REMOVAL OF ALL FILES FROM 4TH AND 5TH FLOORS WHICH INVOLVE ARMY RESERVE AND ALL PERIODS OF NAVY SERVICE TO TEMPORARY STORAGE AREA. TOXIC FOGGING OPERATIONS PLANNED FOR REMAINDER OF BUILDING TO PRESERVE BALANCE OF RECORDS IN BUILDING FROM MILDEW AND ROT. ST. LOUIS CONTINUING INTERVIEWS OF ALL PERSONS LOGGED IN BUILDING AT TIME OF FIRE TOWARD POSSIBLE DETERMINATION OF ARSON; HOWEVER, SEVERAL NATURAL CAUSES OF FIRE BEING CONSIDERED BY EVALUATION COMMITTEES INCLUDE ACCIDENTAL, ELECTRICAL, SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION AND SEVERAL OTHER CAUSES. ST. LOUIS REMOVING BUREAU DOCUMENTS FROM BUREAU SPACE LOCATED THIS BUILDING 7/18/73. P

END

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of report July 17, 1973

[redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent as well as the fact that he was being interviewed concerning a possible federal violation in connection with destruction of Government property.

[redacted] advised that he is employed at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC) as an intermittent employee and that his job is to search for records. He has been employed there since May 21, 1973, and works from 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on the sixth floor. He stated that on July 11, 1973, he arrived at work as usual at approximately 7:15 A.M. and noticed no unusual activities or individuals on the sixth floor on that day.

[redacted] stated that about a week or two ago he turned on a fan on the sixth floor which he described as a large floor fan approximately 6' high with 18" blades surrounded by wire protection. Since these large fans often take several minutes to reach their full speed, he did not stay to notice whether the blades began to turn or not. Several minutes later he was notified by a female employee, [redacted] that that particular fan was not to be used in that the wire protection was bent and the blades would not turn freely. He then observed a considerable amount of smoke to be coming from the fan motor and noticed that a small amount of oil had dripped from the fan onto the floor. After unplugging the fan, he wrote a small note on a piece of paper which said "Do not use" and taped this note to the fan. He stated that since that time he has never seen the fan in use although it was never repaired or removed from the sixth floor. He stated that he had no idea whether or not the fan could have been the cause of the fire but felt that this information may be of some use in determining the cause of the fire. b7C

He is described as follows:

7/12/73

Normandy, Missouri

SL 52-4856 6/

SA [redacted]

:pdp

7/16/73

SL 52-4856

Name

Address

Missouri

Telephone

Race

White

Sex

Male

Parents

and

same address

Date of birth

Height

6'3"

Weight

160

Hair

Black

Eyes

Brown

Military service

None

Social Security Number

University.

is a full time student at St. Louis

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date dictated July 17, 1973

[redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent as well as the fact that she was being interviewed concerning a possible federal violation in connection with destruction of Government property.

She advised she obtained summer employment at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC) on May 13, 1973, where she is employed in a file purification project. She stated that she works the 4:00 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. shift and that she arrived for work on July 11, 1973, at 3:55 P.M. She stated that she spent the entire evening on the second floor and remained there through her lunch hour. She stated that at approximately 12:20 A.M. she was on the first floor and was ready to go home when she heard someone say that there was a fire on the fourth floor. To satisfy her curiosity she took an elevator to the fourth floor and observed a considerable amount of smoke; however, she did not observe any fire and immediately returned to the first floor and left the building. She remained in the area until approximately 3:00 A.M. watching the building burn and observing the firemen in action.

b7C

She stated that during the course of the evening she noticed nothing unusual and although she is not familiar with all of the employees on the second floor, she failed to observe anyone who looked as though he did not belong there.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Name  
Address

Telephone  
Race  
Sex  
Date of birth

Missouri

White  
Female

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at Normandy, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-62

by SA [redacted]

:pdp

Date dictated 7/16/73

SL 52-4856

Height	5'8"
Weight	125
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Black
Marital status	Single
Parents	[redacted] and [redacted]
	same address
Social Security Number	[redacted]

b7C

[redacted] is a full time student at St. Louis  
University.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date dictated July 17, 1973

[redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent as well as the fact that he was being interviewed concerning a possible federal violation in connection with destruction of Government property.

b7C

[redacted] advised that he has been employed with the U. S. Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC) as a [redacted] for the past three years. He advised that he has been working the 3:00 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. shift for the past year and that on July 11, 1973, he arrived at work at approximately 2:50 P.M. He stated he spent the entire evening working on the fourth floor and that shortly after 12 midnight he returned to the first floor where he signed out and was waiting to go home. He recalled that approximately at 12:20 A.M. he heard an individual shouting that there was a fire on five and six. [redacted] then exited the building at the rear entrance (west) and was then granted permission by his supervisor to go home.

[redacted] stated that he noted nothing unusual during the course of the evening nor did he notice any unfamiliar employees in the building. He stated that if the fire were the result of arson he was unable to furnish any suspects in the matter.

## He is described as follows:

Name	[redacted]
Address	[redacted] St. Louis
Telephone	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of birth	[redacted]
Height	6-1
Weight	180
Eyes	Black
Hair	Brown

b7C

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 63By SA [redacted]

:pdp

7/16/73

SL 52-4856

Marital status  
Military service  
Social Security Number  
Mother

Single  
None

b7C  
same as AL-58



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 17, 1973

Date of transcription \_\_\_\_\_

[redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent as well as the fact that he was being interviewed concerning a possible federal violation in connection with destruction of Government property.

[redacted] advised that he has been working as a [redacted] at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC) for approximately 15 years since the building was opened. He added that he had 32 years of Government service. He stated that on July 11, 1973, he arrived at work at approximately 3:45 P.M. at which time he went to work on the second floor of the building. He worked on the second floor until his lunch break at 7:30 P.M. after which he went to work on the sixth floor. To the best of his recollection he worked on the sixth floor from approximately 8:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. at which time he returned to the first floor where he remained until approximately 12:25 A.M., July 12, 1973. At this time he heard several individuals speaking of a fire upstairs and he exited through the east door. While outside the building he was contacted by [redacted] who asked him to stay for awhile in case there was anything that could be done to help. He remained until approximately 2:30 A.M. and observed the fire on the sixth floor in the south side of the building. He stated that during the course of the evening nothing unusual had occurred nor had he noticed any individuals who were unfamiliar to him or who appeared as though they did not belong at MPRC. b7C

He is described as follows:

Name	[redacted]
Address	[redacted] Missouri
Telephone	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of birth	[redacted]

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 64

by SA [redacted] :pdp Date dictated 7/16/73

SL 52-4856

Height	5'8"
Weight	160
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Marital status	Married
Military service	U. S. Army, 1941 through 1944
Social Security Number	<div data-bbox="918 676 1242 740" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 196px; height: 30px;"></div>

b7C

7/16/73

AIR TEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (52-5990) P

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY (NPRC-M) 7/12/73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON  
OO - SL.

[redacted] This is to advise that on this date [redacted]  
[redacted] KCMO-TV, Kansas City, Mo., informed SAC [redacted]  
that at about 10:30 a.m., today she answered the phone in  
the news room and an unidentified male voice stated in  
effect "I can give you a name in the Overland, Missouri,  
fire". When [redacted] asked for a minute to get a pad and pencil  
the caller hung up, without saying anything else.

At 11:05 today, the same unidentified caller  
called the news room and spoke to [redacted] and merely stated  
he would call her again on 8/1/73 between 9:30 and 10 a.m.,  
to give her the name he promised. b7C

[redacted] has no idea who the caller was, whether  
it was a long distance or local call, and she could not tell  
if the caller was intoxicated or was calling on a prank or  
had serious intentions to be of help. She has advised that  
she will keep the FBI informed in the event she receives any  
other contact in this matter particularly from the unidentified  
caller.

Kansas City will follow with [redacted] and  
determine any further developments in this matter.

- 2 - Bureau
- ② - St. Louis (52-4856)
- 2 - Kansas City
- PCY/hmg
- (6)

52-4856-65

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 18 1973	
ST LOUIS	

[redacted] [signature]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7-16-73

[redacted] (no middle name) [redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone [redacted] was telephonically  
contacted on July 12, 1973 at which time arrangements  
were made for interview on July 13, 1973 at the  
Jewish Community Center, 11001 Schuetz Road, telephone  
HE 2-5707.

[redacted] advised that he is employed at the  
Federal Records Center (FRC) and was on duty the evening  
of July 11, 1973 from 4 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. on July 12,  
1973. He advised that [redacted] and during  
this shift was working on the basement floor waxing  
the floor and was on one other floor, this being the  
first floor above the basement level. [redacted] advised  
that as he was departing the basement level at approximately  
12:30 A.M. and riding the freight elevator to the first  
floor, he smelled smoke and commented to someone that  
there was smoke in the elevator shaft. After he left the  
first floor, he noticed that there were firemen and  
police at this location. [redacted] advised that he had heard  
nothing which would indicate that the fire had been deliberately  
set. [redacted] advised that he has been at FRC as an employee  
since 1965 and at present has approximately 25 years with the  
Federal Government in longevity.

b7C

[redacted] furnished the name of [redacted] who  
is a Negro female, approximately 25 to 27 years of age,  
who was on the west end of the sixth floor on the evening  
of July 11, 1973. [redacted] advised that he did not know  
what time she departed the sixth floor. He pointed  
out that she worked as a [redacted] in this location.

[redacted] furnished the name of [redacted] a  
Negro male, approximately 51 years of age, who was on the  
sixth floor with two high school boys both Negro males,  
approximately 16 or 17 years of age, whose first names  
were [redacted] and [redacted] stated that [redacted]  
and these boys were damp mopping the floor during the  
evening shift on July 11, 1973 and the morning of July 12,  
1973 he had spoken to [redacted] who had informed him that he  
had departed the sixth floor at approximately 11:45 P.M.

Interviewed on 7/12-13/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 - 666  
by SA [redacted] SS [redacted] Date dictated 7-13-73

SL 52-4856

and informed him that he had seen nothing which would indicate that a fire was burning on the sixth floor nor did he smell any smoke.

[redacted] also furnished the name of [redacted] (last name unknown) who works on the east end of the sixth floor doing cleaning and sweeping. He advised [redacted] is a Vietnam veterans and is a white male in his early 20's. He furnished the name of [redacted] whom he believes to have the last name of [redacted] (phonetic) who works both ends of the sixth floor and cleans the lavatories. He related that [redacted] is also a white male in his early 20's and a Vietnam veteran.

[redacted] advised that inasmuch as he is a [redacted] he has a complete list of all maintenance employees at his residence with addresses and telephone numbers which he will furnish at a later date.

[redacted] advised that he has heard no comments about anyone who would deliberately start a fire at FRC.

[redacted] is a Negro male with date of birth [redacted] at [redacted] Alabama.

b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/18/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, was interviewed regarding the fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) on July 12, 1973.

[redacted] advised that he is temporarily employed at the center as a [redacted] for the summer only. He stated that he started work in May, 1973. [redacted] stated that he arrived at work at approximately 3:30 p.m. on July 11, 1973, and left work at approximately 12:30 a.m. on July 12, 1973.

[redacted] advised that during that particular shift at work, he only had occasion to be on the first and second floor, except that he went to the fifth floor to the snack bar for supper.

[redacted] advised that he did not see anything unusual July 11, 1973 and had no idea as to how the fire started. b7C

The following background data was obtained through observation and interview:

Social Security Number	[redacted]
NPRC Badge No.:	[redacted]
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Blue
Sex:	Male
Race:	White
Height:	6'3"
Weight:	206 pounds

[redacted] advised that he would immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the event he obtains any information as to how the fire started.

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at Webster Groves, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 67

MICHAEL N. MURPHY/dls *mm*

7/13/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/18/73

[redacted] was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] regarding the fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page Avenue on July 12, 1973.

[redacted] advised that he was employed at the Records Center at 4300 Goodfellow, not 9700 Page, from March, 1968 until last Friday, July 6, 1973. He stated that his duties consisted of [redacted] at the Personnel Records Center on Goodfellow and that he worked the shift from 3:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] name of [redacted] (phonetic). He stated that on one particular night, several weeks ago, he [redacted] at the gate as he started to leave the Records Center because he wanted [redacted] the Records Center [redacted] He stated that he feels that [redacted]

[redacted] advised that the only time he had been to the Records Center at 9700 Page was in 1968 when he initially submitted his application and again last night, July 12, 1973, when he went there with a friend of his in a pickup to watch the fire. He stated that on that occasion, he talked to a guard at the gate by the name of [redacted] who was a friend of his and had known him at the Records Center at 4300 Goodfellow.

Before being asked any further questions, [redacted] was advised of his rights by Special Agent [redacted]. He stated he understood his rights, but could not sign the form inasmuch as he was required to have his father present to review any legal paper before he signs it.

[redacted] was asked if he knew who started the fire at the Records Center or if he was involved himself. [redacted] advised that he did not have any knowledge as to who could

Interviewed on 7/13/73 at Florissant, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-68  
by SA [redacted] dls mm Date dictated 7/13/73

have started the fire and he did not start it himself.

[redacted] was asked if he had any knowledge of any threats made to any of the guards at the Records Center at Goodfellow regarding breaking of any of the windows.

[redacted] advised that on the particular night previously mentioned [redacted]

[redacted] advised that he was at home [redacted] during the entire day and night of July 11, 1973 through July 12, 1973.

He stated that he does not own a blue Volkswagen or a green Chevrolet and that his own car is a 1971 Purple Charger. He further stated that his father has a 1973 Monte Carlo, which is blue in color and his mother owns a 1973 silver Vega. He stated that he does not know anybody who owns a blue Volkswagen or a 1967 green Chevrolet.

b7C

[redacted]  
[redacted] at the 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard Records Center  
[redacted]

The following information was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	[redacted]
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Place of birth:	[redacted] Missouri
Home address:	[redacted] Missouri
Height:	6'
Weight:	210 pounds
Missouri drivers license:	[redacted]
Telephone number:	[redacted]
Social Security Number:	[redacted]
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Brown; shoulder length; short [redacted]



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/18/73

[redacted] was interviewed regarding the fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) at 9700 Page Boulevard on July 12, 1973.

[redacted] advised that he is employed at the NPRC as [redacted] for the AX Purification Project and stated that in the course of his duties, he [redacted] He stated that he arrives at the NPRC for work at approximately 3:20 p.m. on July 11, 1973, and stayed at the center until approximately 3:00 on July 12, 1973. [redacted] stated that he would normally have left at 12:30 a.m., but decided to stay around and watch the fire.

[redacted] stated that on the evening of July 11, 1973, that his work was confined strictly to the first and second floor and that the only time he left those floors was for supper between 8:00 and 8:30 p.m. on the fifth floor.

b7C

[redacted] stated that he did not notice anything unusual on that particular evening with the exception of the fact that at approximately 11:00 p.m., one of the negro [redacted] who works on the second floor and normally cleans the handrails, approached him and asked for a light for a cigarette. [redacted] stated that the individual then appeared to have forgot that he did not have any cigarettes with him so [redacted] gave him one. [redacted] stated that [redacted]

[redacted] stated that the only thing significant about this incident was the fact he usually sees this individual about twice every shift and he can never recall ever seeing this individual smoking before. [redacted] could not furnish any additional descriptive data regarding the negro [redacted]

The following descriptive, background data was obtained through observation and interview:

Interviewed on 7/13/73 at Florissant, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 69

by SA [redacted] /dls [redacted] 7/13/73

SL 52-4856

Name:	[REDACTED]
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Social Security Number:	[REDACTED]
NPRC Badge #:	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth:	7/8/25
Height:	5'11"
Weight:	175 pounds
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Blue

b7C

[REDACTED] stated that if he obtains any information which might be helpful in solving this case, he would immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/17/73

[redacted] telephone number [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] stated that he has been employed by the General Services Administration since 1960 in the capacity of a [redacted] said that on July 11, 1973, he was working the 4 - 12:30 PM shift and advised he was assigned to the third floor of the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, Overland, Missouri.

[redacted] stated that he had locked up the cleaning trucks at approximately 12:15 AM and changed his clothes in preparation of leaving at the end of his tour of duty. It was at this time he had first learned that there was a fire in the building as he had noticed there was no guard at the door when he was leaving.

[redacted] stated that he exited the building on the east side and walked to his privately owned vehicle and left the area.

[redacted] stated that he observed nothing unusual on his floor during his tour of duty, specifically, he did not see any flammable liquids nor did he see anyone carry flammable liquids into the building. He stated that he and the other employees are regularly briefed on safety and specifically remembered a safety movie wherein the various ways that fires are started are explained. He further added that there are many safety meetings conducted.

[redacted] verified that at the National Personnel Records Center there were many problem workers. He stated that a good number of the people did not pay much attention to their bosses. He advised that his idea of work was to do what you are told to do when you are told to do it.

[redacted] was unable to provide any suspects who would have set the building on fire and stated he knows of no one in his immediate circle of workers who would

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at Kinloch, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-70  
by SA [redacted] TTK:mv Date dictated 7/13/73

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be carrying a grudge.

[redacted] stated that his immediate supervisors  
are [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] is described as a Negro male;  
5'5"; 160 pounds; born [redacted] Social Security  
Number [redacted]

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/17/73

Date of transcription

[redacted] was contacted at her home. [redacted] telephone number [redacted] regarding the July 12, 1973, fire at the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] said that she had been working at the National Personnel Records Center since August 23, 1967. She stated that she has been working in the capacity of a [redacted] and was working on the second floor 4 - 12:30 AM shift on July 11, 1973. She said that she was assigned to clean the area in the vicinity of the Information Desk to the first breezeway. She said her [redacted] stated that it was about 12:07 AM when she put her cart on the elevator and pressed the first floor button. [redacted] stated that this was the fast freight elevator but instead of going down, the elevator went to the 6th floor. She said at that time she was met by a group of workers, of which she only recognized [redacted] (phonetic).

b7C

[redacted] stated that the actions of this group of workers would not have indicated that they were aware of a fire because there was just casual conversation. [redacted] the elevator descended to the first floor. [redacted] that she knows [redacted] to be a conscientious worker and was certain that he would have sounded the alarm if he knew the building was on fire.

She said after putting her equipment up she prepared to leave. She said that she signed out on the book which she normally signs out on and was waiting to be relieved. She said that she was at the east side of the building near the exit which she described as being the back door. [redacted] said there was no guard at the door and she thought this was unusual.

[redacted] recalled that she was standing with several other employees and was approached by a person

Interviewed on 7/12/73

at Webster Groves, Missouri

File # SL 52-4856 -77

by SA [redacted]  
SL SA [redacted]

TTK:mv

Date dictated 7/13/73

SL 52-4856

she knows as [ ] who is a white male and lives in Weldon Springs, Missouri. She said he was shouting "Get the guard, get the guard, there's a fire". [ ] said that she was not sure whether he said there is a fire or there is a fan on fire.

[ ] said that [ ] is a hippie type person and the general reaction of the group was that he was kidding. [ ] then left the building at which time she was met by her daughter [ ] who was going to drive her home.

[ ] said that her daughter was glad to see her and mentioned that she had seen that the building was on fire and was thankful that her mother was out of the building. [ ] then said that she and her daughter drove to her sister's house which is in the vicinity of the National Personnel Records Center, and decided to stop there.

b7C

[ ] advised that during her tour of duty she did not notice any strangers in the area and she did not notice any flammable liquids. Furthermore, she said she had never heard anyone threatening to destroy the National Personnel Records Center.

The following descriptive information pertains to [ ]

Sex	Female
Race	Negro
Height	5'4"
Weight	120
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Date of birth	[ ]
Social Security #	[ ]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) P

DATE: 7/14/73

FROM :

SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT:

MAJOR FIRE  
NPRC-M  
7/12/73;  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON  
(OO: ST. LOUIS)

On 7/14/73, [REDACTED] General Services Administration [REDACTED] who has been in St. Louis on location at the record center since the start of the fire, telephonically contacted the St. Louis Office and advised that he received information that a man named [REDACTED] telephone number [REDACTED] in St. Louis, was an eye-witness to the origin of captioned fire. [REDACTED] did not have any additional information concerning [REDACTED] or exactly what [REDACTED] was supposed to have witnessed. [REDACTED] said he would turn this information over to his investigators, but also wanted to furnish the information to us so that it could be ascertained exactly what [REDACTED] knew about the matter.

b7C

## LEADS

### ST. LOUIS DIVISION

#### AT ST. LOUIS, MO.

Locate and interview [REDACTED] through telephone number [REDACTED]

handling lead - 7/16/73 - P

② - St. Louis  
MED:prk  
(2)



52-4856-73

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - ST. LOUIS	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST LOUIS (52-4856) P  
(Attn: SA [redacted])

DATE: 7/14/73

FROM : SA [redacted]

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;  
MAJOR FIRE-NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER-  
MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
ST LOUIS, MISSOURI  
7/12/73  
DGP-POSSIBLE ARSON

OO: STLOUIS

On 7/14/73 SC [redacted] advised that he had recently had a conversation with [redacted] phone [redacted] who is employed by the military and works in the computer center at the NPRC (4th floor), in which [redacted] expressed strong opinions regarding the probability that arson was responsible for captioned fire. [redacted] advised that since he did not know who had been interviewed in this matter, he felt that this information should be given to the agents interviewing Center personnel.

b7C

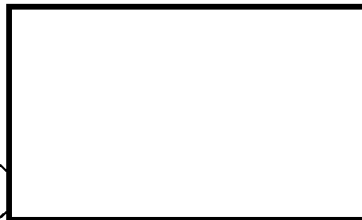


*handling lead -*

2- 52-4856  
WAD



①



②

52-4856-73

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC St. Louis (52-4856) P DATE: 7-13-73

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Major Frie, National Personnel Records Center-  
Military (NPRC-M)  
DGP - Possible Arson. 00 SL.

[REDACTED] b7C  
[REDACTED], Missouri, [REDACTED] advised  
that he had some information of possible  
value to provide concerning Captioned Case. He  
did not want to give any details over the  
telephone but requested that he be contacted  
at his residence after 4<sup>30</sup> Monday 7-16-73.

He did say that he was a former  
employee of the Center and had certain  
suspects in mind. He did not want to be  
contacted at his place of employment.

Leads:

St. Louis

at St. Louis

Interview [REDACTED] re any information  
of possible value.



minuteman lead 7-16-73

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

b7C

52-4856-74

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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[REDACTED]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/16/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, was contacted at his residence by Special Agent [redacted] concerning the fire that occurred at the National Personnel Records Center - Military (NPRC-M) on the evening of July 11, 1973. [redacted] advised that he had been employed at the record center since May 15, 1973, as a [redacted] working on special projects. He works in a group of approximately 19 others who are primarily college students and who were hired for the summer. [redacted] said on July 11, 1973, he began working at 4:00 PM in the afternoon and completed his duties on the second floor of the building at 12:30 AM. [redacted] explained that at approximately 12:10 AM he and other members of his group left the second floor and proceeded to the first floor of the building to put away their files prior to leaving. Upon returning to the second floor at approximately 12:25 AM [redacted] advised he smelled smoke on the second floor and noticed it was visibly smoky. At that time he was told by his supervisor that a fire had occurred in the building and he left the building. [redacted] said that the only time he had left the second floor was to go to the fifth floor snack bar about 8:00 PM for his usual evening break. During his period of work on July 11, 1973, [redacted] said he saw nothing unusual, noticed no strange individuals in his work area and was not aware of anyone who might be capable of or desirous of destroying the building by fire.

b7C

On leaving the building after being told of the fire, [redacted] left the area and returned to his residence. [redacted] advised if he heard of any information that might shed some light on the possible circumstances of the fire he would contact the FBI.

The following information was obtained from observation and interview:

Name: [redacted]

Address: [redacted]

St. Louis

Telephone number: [redacted]

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 *75*  
by SA [redacted] *25*  
*cw* Date dictated 7/16/73

SL 52-4856

Marital status:	Single
Occupation:	Student, University of Missouri at Columbia, majoring in political science
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	160
Date of birth:	[REDACTED]
Place of birth:	[REDACTED] Missouri
Hair:	Black (long); mustache
Other:	Wears glasses

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date dictated 7/16/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, was contacted at his residence, by SA [redacted] concerning the fire that occurred at the National Personnel Records Center - Military (NPRC-M) on July 11, 1973, and furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised that he has been employed at the record center since May 14, 1973 as a [redacted] and he works on special projects on the second floor of the building. On July 11, 1973, [redacted] stated he reported to work at 4:00 PM and worked the shift 4:00 to 12:30 AM.

[redacted] advised he had not been to any of the upper floors during this work period and that he had noticed nothing unusual during this period. [redacted] said that at approximately 12:15 he went to the first floor of the building to sign out and upon returning to the second floor at approximately 12:30 AM he saw firemen entering the building and smelled smoke. He left the building and observed on the south side of the building approximately two-thirds of the way down towards the southeast corner flames coming out of the windows. [redacted] said that he stayed and watched the fire for approximately two hours before returning to his residence. [redacted] said he knew of no one that he had come in contact with who might be capable of or desirous of destroying the NPRC-M. [redacted] advised that if any information comes to his attention which might shed some light on the cause of this fire, he would contact the FBI.

b7C

The following information was taken from observation and interview:

Name: [redacted]  
Residence: [redacted] St. Louis  
Telephone number: [redacted]  
Occupation: Student, Parks College, St. Louis, Missouri, majoring in [redacted]

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-76

by SA [redacted] CW Date dictated 7/16/73

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Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Marital status:	Single
Height:	5'11"
Weight:	175
Hair:	Blonde
Eyes:	Blue
Date of birth:	[REDACTED]
Place of birth:	[REDACTED] Missouri

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/16/73

(Date of transcription)

[redacted] Missouri, was contacted by SA [redacted] on July 13, 1973, concerning the fire that occurred at the National Personnel Records Center - Military (NPRC-M) on July 11, 1973. [redacted] advised he has been employed as a [redacted] at the records center since May 15, 1973, and works on special projects. [redacted] stated that he works on the second floor of the building and on July 11, 1973, only left the second floor once to go to the fifth floor snack bar at approximately 8:00 PM for a break. [redacted] advised that he has never been on the sixth floor of the record center building. [redacted] advised he first became aware of a fire when at approximately 12:25 AM he smelled smoke on the second floor. He went outside and saw flames coming out of sixth floor windows on the south side of the building. [redacted] then returned home to his residence at approximately 1:30 AM. [redacted] advised he had never observed anything unusual prior to July 11, 1973 at the records center or during his work shift on July 11, 1973 and that he knew of no one who might be interested in or capable of destroying the record center building. [redacted] advised that if any information came to his attention that might shed some light on the cause of the fire he would contact the FBI.

b7C

The following information was taken from observation and interview:

Name:	[redacted]
Residence:	[redacted] St. Louis
Telephone number:	[redacted]
Occupation:	Student, University of Missouri, majoring in business administration
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Marital status:	Single

Interviewed on 7/13/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 - 77  
by SA [redacted] cw Date dictated 7/16/73

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Date of birth:	[REDACTED]
Place of birth:	[REDACTED] Missouri
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Brown
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	150

b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/17/73

[redacted] telephone  
number [redacted] was interviewed and furnished the  
following information:

[redacted] was employed as a [redacted] at the  
Military Records Center, 4300 Goodfellow for six years,  
however, [redacted]

b7C

[redacted] stated that he was not aware that there  
was a fire at the record center on Page Avenue until the  
late morning of July 12, 1973, when he drove his brother  
[redacted] to the record center. His brother had wanted to  
have his Army general discharge changed to honorable  
so that he could either get a job as a custodian at that  
record center or re-enter the Army. His brother has only  
a fifth grade education and has been unable to get a job.  
[redacted] believed that his brother received the general  
discharge because he has asthma and was unable to keep  
up with the physical requirements. [redacted] understood  
that his brother had been told two or three weeks previously  
by someone in the Army to take his discharge papers to the  
record center where a lady there would change one of the  
numbers for him so he could get a job. When they arrived  
at the record center they noticed that it was on fire  
and that the police were turning people away from it so  
they returned home. That was the first time that [redacted]  
has been to the record center on Page Avenue.

[redacted] advised that at between 6:00 or 7:00 PM  
on July 11, 1973, he drove his car to the place where his  
girlfriend was babysitting. His girlfriends name is [redacted]  
[redacted] date of birth [redacted] who lives at [redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted]  
[redacted] frequently babysits for her aunt whose name  
[redacted] does not know but who lives on [redacted] approximately

b7C

7/13/73

St. Louis, Missouri

SL 52-4856

78

SA [redacted]

SA [redacted]

cw

7/17/73



SL 52-4856

one block south of [redacted] Her house is on the west side of the street. It is a single family dwelling, painted red with a green screen door. [redacted] did not know the telephone number there.

[redacted] and [redacted] then went for a ride in his car. They stopped at the house of some friends and played cards for a little while. Then they stopped at a Chinese Restaurant on the corner of Natural Bridge and [redacted] and got take-outs. This was around 8:00 or 9:00 PM. He then drove [redacted] back to her aunt's place and they stayed there for quite a while. Her aunt and the children were at home at that time. [redacted] then returned to his home at around midnight. At 1:00 AM on July 12, 1973, he went out to pick up a friend of his [redacted] who is a [redacted] at the record center on 4300 Goodfellow. He knew [redacted] from when he had worked there. He took [redacted] to his home which he advised was on [redacted] worked the 5:00 to 1:30 AM shift. [redacted] telephone number is [redacted] then went home and went to bed.

b7C

[redacted] knows [redacted] as another [redacted] working at 4300 Goodfellow. [redacted] He described him as a [redacted] [redacted] He believes [redacted] drives a 1970 Dodge Charger, black over purple. [redacted] does not know anyone who drives either a blue Volkswagen or a green 1967 Chevrolet.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	[redacted]
Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Height:	6'4"
Weight:	140
Date of birth:	[redacted]

SL 52-4856

Place of birth: [redacted] Missouri  
Mother: [redacted] same address  
Father: Deceased  
Brother: [redacted]  
Automobile: 1946 Oldsmobile Cutlass,  
black vinyl over white.  
Missouri license [redacted]  
Arrests: None admitted

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/17/73

Date of transcription

[redacted] telephone number [redacted]  
[redacted] was interviewed and furnished the following information:

[redacted] is employed as a [redacted] at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, where she works the 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM shift. She is temporarily assigned to a special project involving the relabeling of files on the second floor. [redacted] works on the first floor and corrects errors in names and military service numbers discovered by the clerks working in the files on the second floor. [redacted] was not on the sixth floor at all on the evening of July 11, 1973, and was not aware that there was a fire there until approximately 12:25 AM when she went to a stairway in the center of the building to walk up to the second floor where she would normally exit at the west end. As she was approaching the stairway, she observed a guard who she recognized but whose name she does not know, walking toward the elevator. She asked him if he was going to take the elevator and if so she would ride with him as far as the second floor. He responded yes, he was going to see about a fire. When the elevator came and the door opened, they saw that the elevator was filled with smoke. When the smoke disappeared, they got on it and she got off the elevator at the second floor. When she left the building at 12:30 from the east exit she looked back, however, could not see any fire. She saw one fire truck parked by the building.

b7C

[redacted] advised that she had not heard any discussion or threats concerning the desire of anyone to set fire to the building. She had heard of several small fires which have occurred in the past, including some in the files but had no knowledge that these fires had been intentionally set. The most recent fire that she recalled occurred early this year in which four file boxes caught on fire on the second floor.

7/16/73

Jennings, Missouri

SL 52-4856 - 79

Interviewed on

SA [redacted]

JCW

7/17/73

by

SL 52-4856

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	<div></div>
Race:	Negro
Sex:	Female
Height:	5'8"
Weight:	200
Date of birth:	<div></div>

b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date dictated 7/17/73

[redacted] telephone number [redacted] was interviewed and furnished the following information:

[redacted] received a general discharge under honorable conditions from the Army on December 19, 1972. He had been stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

[redacted] admitted that he had asthma. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] On the morning of July 12, 1973, [redacted] called the operator and obtained telephone number he thinks was for the Army recruiters [redacted]

b7C

[redacted] He called that number and talked to a Sergeant in the Army who recommended that he take his discharge to the record center at 9700 Page. [redacted] has lost this telephone number and cannot recall the name of the person that he was supposed to see at the record center. Since [redacted] does not have a driver's license, he got his brother, [redacted] to drive him out to the record center late that morning. When they got there they saw that it was on fire and that policemen were keeping people out so that they then returned home. That was the first time that he knew the center was on fire.

[redacted] explained that although [redacted] [redacted]

at the Army and in fact hoped to re-enter the Army or obtain some kind of other Government employment.

When asked whether [redacted] brother [redacted] was at home on the evening of July 11, 1973, [redacted]

7/13/73

St. Louis, Missouri

SL 52-4856

80

SA [redacted]  
SA [redacted]

cw

7/17/73

b7C

SL 52-4856

said that yes, he was sure he was. He was certain that [ ] was at home all night. When asked what he, [ ] was doing that evening, he explained that he had gone to sleep at 7:00 PM and slept through until the morning. He was nevertheless sure that his brother [ ] was at home all night.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

b7C

Name:	[ ]
Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	[ ]
Height:	6'
Weight:	150
Service number:	Army [ ] stationed at Fort Leonard Wood
Discharge:	General, under honorable conditions, December 19, 1972
Arrests:	None admitted
Automobile:	None

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/17/73

[redacted] telephone number [redacted] was interviewed and furnished the following information:

[redacted] is employed as a [redacted] at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, where she works the 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM shift. She is temporarily assigned to a special project involving the relabeling of files on the second floor and the correction of errors noticed by clerks working there, errors in the name or service numbers. When these errors are noticed, the files are taken down to the first floor where she works and where she corrects them. [redacted] is normally employed as a [redacted] also on the first floor. The special project involves [redacted] including herself and three supervisors working on the first floor and 17 clerks and one supervisor working on the second floor in the files.

During the evening of July 11, 1973, work went as usual and she was not aware that a fire had broken out until she left the building at 12:30 AM and saw a fire truck outside. She saw the firemen talking to the guards and observed that the firemen had not yet started to spray water into the building. She did not notice the fire herself although she did not look for it.

b7C

[redacted] had not been on the sixth floor at all that evening and advised that none of the clerks working on this project would have any reason to go on that floor. She has not heard any talk about anyone planning to set fire to the building and has no idea as to what might have been the cause of the fire.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:  
Race:

[redacted]  
Negro

7/16/73

Northwoods, Missouri

SL 52-4856

81

SA [redacted]

CW

7/17/73

SL 52-4856

Sex:	Female
Height:	5'6"
Weight:	131
Date of birth:	<div data-bbox="852 493 1218 556" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 225px;"></div>

b7C



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/17/73

Date of transcription

[redacted] telephone number [redacted] was interviewed and furnished the following information:

[redacted] is a [redacted] at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, where he works on the west end of the fifth floor, general office area, on the 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM shift. [redacted] was not on the sixth floor at all on July 11, 1973. At approximately 12:15 AM he took his cart down to the first floor storage room. At that time he had not heard any mention of a fire or smoke in the building nor had he seen any. At 12:25 AM he changed clothes and was ready to leave when he smelled smoke. Also at that time another custodian who he did not know and who had apparently exited the building at the east end, came around to his exit at the west end and told the people at that exit to call the guards and tell them to shut off the big exhaust fans in the windows on the sixth floor because there was a fire there. Since there were no guards near the exit where this occurred, this custodian was told to return to the east exit where there was a guard. At approximately 12:30 AM he left the building. When he looked up he saw some smoke. When he got into his car and drove away he could see that all of the sixth floor windows on the south side were red from the flames.

b7C

[redacted] is not aware of any threats or discussions by other individuals to set fire to the building. He is not aware of any fires occurring there within the past several months.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	[redacted]
Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Height:	5'10"

7/12/73

St. Louis, Missouri

SL 52-4856

Interviewed on

SA

cw

7/17/73

by

SL 52-4856

Weight:	180
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Brown
Date of birth:	<div data-bbox="842 497 1216 554" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 27px; width: 230px;"></div>

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/17/73

[redacted] telephone number [redacted] was interviewed and furnished the following information:

[redacted] GSA Custodial Services. [redacted] custodial personnel working the 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM shift at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch. There are approximately 30-35 custodians who work that shift. [redacted] has worked at the record center for 29 years. The night of July 11, 1973, was routine. There were no special problems, no persons absent and he did not see any strangers in the building. He worked in his office on the first floor until approximately 11:20 PM when he left to talk to all of his custodial personnel. He had been told by the [redacted] that as a result of a recent inspection he was to remind all custodial personnel to return their carts and mops to the storage room on the first floor and especially to empty those carts of all paper, throwing the paper away in the large receptacle outside. He contacted these people on each floor and arrived at the sixth floor at approximately 11:25 PM. [redacted] was only there for five minutes or less. The workers he had on that floor at that time were (FNU) [redacted] and [redacted] then returned to the guard office on the second floor where he stayed until approximately 11:45 when he returned to the first floor cart storage area to wait for the custodians to return. By 12:15 AM all of the carts were in.

At 12:20 AM [redacted] the fourth floor, east end [redacted] came in and said that he had smelled smoke upstairs. [redacted] then walked to the first floor guard office at the east end to tell them. [redacted] (FNU) [redacted] went up to check on it. At 12:30 AM most of the custodians left, however, [redacted] kept four or five of them at the request of his [redacted] had requested that a few custodians remain in case there were extra cleanup efforts from the fire. At 12:45 AM he received another call from [redacted] giving them permission

b7C

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at Bel Ridge, Mo. File # SL 52-4856 83  
by SA [redacted] cw Date dictated 7/17/73

SL 52-4856

to leave. [ ] was not aware of any particular fire hazards on the sixth floor and could not guess as to what the cause of the fire was. He had not heard of any threats from anyone to set the fire and he had full faith in all of the persons working for him. He has never had any serious problems with any of them. Of those which work on the sixth floor the only one he knows that smokes is [ ]

b7C

Building rules require that the lights be turned off on the sixth floor except when someone is working in a particular area. There is no smoking permitted in the file area. The pedestal fans are turned off at the end of every shift although the big exhaust fans in the windows always remain on.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	[ ]
Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Height:	5'6"
Weight:	125
Date of birth:	[ ]
Place of birth:	[ ] Kansas
Service number:	Army, 373 76 523, discharge honorable, received February 17, 1946

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7-18-73

Date of transcription

On July 16, 1973, [redacted]

of [redacted]

b7C

[redacted] Missouri, telephone [redacted] was interviewed at his residence and supplied the following information:

[redacted] advised that he had contacted this office early in the day to request that two Agents come to his residence, whereupon he would furnish them what he believed to be the facts and the person responsible for setting the fire at the Military Records Center.

[redacted] stated that in 1954 while employed at the North Little Rock, Arkansas, Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, [redacted]

[redacted] hearing which took place at the Veterans Hospital, [redacted] states that he was brought up on charges by a [redacted] of the hospital for allegedly spreading rumors about a [redacted] and a [redacted]

[redacted] alleged [redacted] made statements to the effect that [redacted] and [redacted] were homosexuals. [redacted] advises although he was completely exonerated, he feels nevertheless because the names of [redacted] and [redacted] were mentioned in the minutes of his hearing, to the effect that they were homosexuals, he feels [redacted] may be responsible for the fire at the Record Center. b7C

[redacted] went further into detail to explain that in view of the fact that [redacted] a part of his permanent record, he felt that [redacted] would attempt to destroy his record in an effort to destroy any record of his homosexual relationship with [redacted] at that time. [redacted] further advised that shortly after the hearings took place in 1954, a fire broke out in a portion of the hospital which housed the permanent records of the employees. [redacted] states the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigation subsequently followed and was handled poorly by the FBI. [redacted] went on to say that as a result of the poor handling of the investigation an innocent man was placed in a mental institution for some 15 years and charged with the arson which took place at the hospital. [redacted] further stated

Interviewed on 7-16-73 at Florissant, Mo.

File # SL 52-4856-84

by SA [redacted] PG:k1b

Date dictated 7-17-73

b7C

SL 52-4856

that he believed [redacted] at the hospital at that time, was responsible for the fire in an attempt to destroy any record which mentioned his relationship with [redacted] states that when he informed the FBI Agents who investigated the fire at that time as to his suspicions, he states he was advised by the investigating Agents that he was not to make mention of anything regarding homosexual relations between [redacted] and [redacted] on direct orders from J. EDGAR HOOVER.

b7C

[redacted] went on to explain that because his permanent record is stored at the record center located at 9700 Page Boulevard, he was certain that [redacted] started the fire at the record center in an attempt to destroy his record of employment at the VA hospital which contained the minutes of the hearing.

[redacted] supplied the following personal information regarding himself:

Race  
Sex  
Age  
Employment

White  
Male  
59 years  
Mc Donnell Aircraft  
Corporation as [redacted]

b7C

Telephone (work)

[redacted]

F B I

Date: 7/18/73

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM: ST. LOUIS (52-~~4~~856)

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
7/12/73. DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON. OO: ST. LOUIS.

RE ST. LOUIS TELETYPE, 7/17/73.

ALL BUREAU PROPERTY REMOVED FROM BUREAU SPACE, NPRC-M,  
INSTANT DATE. BUILDING EVACUATED DURING PROCESS DUE TO SHIFTING  
OF ROOF, AND FEAR OF IMMEDIATE COLLAPSE REMAINDER 6TH FLOOR.  
BUREAU OF STANDARDS DETERMINED ROOF SHIFTED 7 INCHES DURING  
NIGHT AND BUREAU <sup>OF STANDARDS</sup> TAKING CORE SAMPLINGS FROM CEILING OF 5TH  
FLOOR TOWARD FURTHER DETERMINATION OF DAMAGE. CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS  
NOT STARTED DUE TO SAFETY FACTORS AND NO INDICATION AS TO WHEN  
CLEAN-UP WILL START.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING. BUREAU WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ADVISED  
OF ANY PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS. P

END

1. St. Louis

DRS:lhc

(1)

52-4856-85  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

F B I

Date: 7/19/73

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE~~SECRET~~ *File*  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR  
FROM: ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - POSSIBLE ARSON, OO: ST. LOUIS

REBUTEL TO ALL OFFICES, 7/12/73.

BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE ALL OFFICES THAT FORMER FEDERAL  
EMPLOYEE CIVILIAN RECORDS ARE MAINTAINED IN SEPARATE BUILDING THAT  
WAS NOT AFFECTED BY FIRE. ALL OFFICES SHOULD BE NOTIFIED TO CONTINUE  
TO REQUEST CIVILIAN RECORD CHECKS BY ST. LOUIS. ST. LOUIS WILL ADVISE  
BUREAU WHEN MILITARY RECORD CHECKS CAN BE RESUMED.

END.

1-66-2315

52-4856

LFC:MJ1

2

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

86

AUG 1 1973



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Thurs., July 19, 1973 St. Louis ~~Globe-Democrat~~ 5A

# U.S. urged to pay for fire fighting at records center

U.S. Rep. James W. Symington (Dem.), St. Louis County, has asked the federal General Services Administration to reimburse 28 area fire districts for their costs in fighting the massive fire at the Military Personnel Records Center in Overland last week.

In a letter to Arthur P. Sampson, GSA acting administrator, Symington said the fire placed "an extreme and unexpected burden on the fire-fighting community in St. Louis County."

"Since the records center is federal property," Symington said, "it has never been subject to any fire district tax or levy. Nevertheless, as soon as the fire was reported, every piece of fire-fighting equipment from the Community Fire Protection District and every man employed by the district immediately responded to battle the blaze and save the records of millions of veterans."

**SYMINGTON ADDED** that because of the expense in fuel, man hours and damaged equipment the Community Fire Protection District "may have to hold a bond issue to pay for the losses it has incurred fighting this fire." Twenty-seven other fire departments joined in battling the fire, he said.

"This is severely unjust to the local taxpayers involved," Symington said, adding he believes "the responsibility for this matter clearly belongs to the federal government, not the local taxpayer and property owner."

The records center, unlike Jefferson Barracks VA Hospital in South County, never has paid a fee or tax for fire protection, Symington said. While the GSA probably has no legal obligation to pay for the fire-fighting expenses, he said, consideration should be given to these "corrective measures":

—U.S. government reimbursement to the 28 fire districts for losses incurred in fighting the records center fire.

—GSA payment of fire tax to the Community Fire Protection District on an annual basis, based on assessed valuation of the property.

**"IT APPEARS** that the records center was not in compliance with the existing fire codes" of Overland, lacking a complete sprinkler system which "certainly would have helped to contain the blaze and minimize the loss of records," Symington said in his letter to Sampson.

A GSA spokesman here said Wednesday the records center had a partial sprinkler system on the first through fifth floors but none on the sixth floor, where the fire was concentrated. He said when the building was constructed librarians did not favor sprinkler systems because of fears the sprinklers would be set off accidentally and cause water damage to files and records.

However, the spokesman said, that thinking had changed in recent years and an evaluation had shown that a sprinkler system was needed at the records center. It had been "programmed for 1975" in the sixth-floor area, he said. The heat of the fire did set off sprinklers on other floors, he said, but water damage was less than had been expected.

Most employees of the fire-damaged records center have been on administrative leave (with pay) since the fire, which began last Thursday and raged out of control more than 24 hours. Spokesmen for the GSA and Department of the Army announced Wednesday that "permanent, full-time temporary, summer-hire and summer-aid and civilian personnel assigned to duty at the records center will continue to be on administrative leave through July 25, except for those called to work on essential projects."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5A ST. LOUIS  
GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Date: JULY 19, 1973  
Edition: Daily - Final  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title: MAJOR FIRE, NPRC-M  
7/12/73.

Character: DGP - POSSIBLE  
or ARSON  
Classification: SI, 52- 5856  
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated



b7C

7/19/73

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) P

SUBJECT: MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL  
RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M)  
7/12/73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON  
OO: St. Louis

Re SL tel to Bureau, dated 7/18/73.

In connection with the captioned matter, the following information is set forth in order to assist the Bureau in evaluating the current situation at the military records center in St. Louis. Some preliminary information is included as to what now appears the future of military records kept at the captioned facility.

Before describing operations at the records center, however, some idea of the magnitude of this facility should be set forth. The center measures 728 feet long by 282 feet wide. It contains 1,349,148 square feet of floor space, and in volume is slightly larger than the Empire State Building in New York City.

An adjoining cafeteria known as Building 101 comfortably seats 300 persons at one time. As viewed externally, the building is of concrete slab construction with narrow bands of concrete block separating each floor. The balance of the exterior surface on its four sides is covered by more than seven acres of glass windows. While a part of the first and second floors were equipped with automatic sprinklers, these were not set off by the fire. The balance of the building was not equipped with such devices. No smoke sensing, or other fire detecting devices were included in the building when constructed in the early

2- Bureau  
2- St. Louis  
DBS:cw

b7C



SL 52-4856

1950's at a cost of \$12,574,850. Attempts to have a sprinkling system installed after the building was complete were rejected by GSA as too costly. A punch clock system installed several years ago to insure appropriate guard circulation has not been utilized since the creation of the Federal Protective Service which now guards the building.

A complete inventory of government property in the building at the time of the fire, apart from archives, has not been made; however, the fourth floor contained huge computers valued at \$1,200,000. They were used by the Army for handling of payrolls and for locating records. The GSA also operated a large computer for locating records on the ground floor of this building. Damage assessments to this equipment have not been made. Cleanup operations have not yet started due to instability of the sixth floor, and other safety considerations.

The records center, in terms of archives, contained approximately 63 million military records, stored on six floors. Twenty-three separate filing systems are utilized and are described as follows:

The first floor is devoted to records receiving, GSA computer operations and general records center administrative functions. No records are stored on this floor, but many thousands of records are being processed at any given time. Damage consists primarily of smoke and water damage. Since there is no power in the building, extent of damage to the GSA computer has not been determined. All records on this floor should be recovered.

The second floor is partially utilized for executive offices of the center manager, and the Commanding General of the United States Army Reserve Control Group which also occupies the fourth floor. Tenant agencies such as the FBI, Civil Service Commission and National Research Agency as well as personnel offices for both GSA and the Army Reserve are located here. Approximately one fifth of the floor space is devoted to those office spaces with the balance of approximately 224,000 square feet of floor space utilized for storage of records in

the "registry", "Army AX" systems, and New Air Force registry. Records contained in registry include all Army personnel without reserve obligation since 1960, and all other branches of service since 1964. (Army AX system includes only army records between 1960 and 1964.) The New Air Force Registry contains files of discharged Air Force personnel since January 1, 1972. None of these records are filed by alphabet, SN or SSAN but rather by a registry number assigned to the record when it is received at the center. The registry number is then programmed to a computer, and once filed cannot be located without the assistance of the computer. Should a record be misfiled in this system, it is literally "lost forever", to use the words of Center administration.

The AX, registry, and New Air Force registry systems incurred minimal smoke and water damage. However, extremely high humidity requires that these records and their metal cabinets be chemically treated to prevent rot, mold, mildew and rust.

Approximately 30 percent of the Bureau's work was drawn from 9.5 million records located on this floor.

The third floor of the Center contained 400,000 cubic feet of organizational records, which include unknown millions of individual records pertaining to various military organizational units, dependents medical records, officers clubs, etc. These files are not used by the FBI, as search for a specific document requires highly specialized knowledge, and is extremely time consuming. A recent GSA project to locate several army finance documents for a United States Attorney required three solid days of research by the entire unit established for this purpose.

Also contained on the third floor are three and a half million personnel records in three systems identified as the Bureau of Navy Medicine and Surgery (Bumed), New Navy Registry and New Army Registry.

The Bumed section contains about half of all Bumed records, and are filed by alphabet, the balance having been moved to the fifth floor.

SL 52-4856

New Navy and New Army Registry's represent all persons totally discharged from those services since January 1, 1972. These records are highly restricted due to recent legislation relating to release of information involving persons who seek assistance for narcotics habits developed while in the service. These records have been minimally smoke and water damaged, but are none-the-less subject to toxic fogging and drying operations. These three and a half million records produce approximately five percent of the Bureau's work at the center.

The entire fourth floor is utilized by the United States Army Reserve Control Group and Personnel Administration Center. Two large computers are located on this floor, as are some four million personnel records for Army enlisted and officer personnel currently having a reserve obligation. While this section is not generally accessible to civilian personnel, it appears to have been more heavily water damaged than the floors below. Brig. General LOUIS PROST, Commander, has reportedly made arrangements for outside space in which to carry on administrative functions of the Control Group, which action was based on the belief that if the building can ever be reoccupied, it will not be ready for a year or more. Whether the records are to be moved, and to where, is not now known, but they, too, will require processing for water and humidity damage. Approximately 20 percent of FBI investigations concern these files.

The fifth floor contains about 15,700,000 records in several systems known as Navy World War I, Navy World War II, Navy Post World War, Marine Corps (MC), Marine Corps Officer, MC Fitness, MC Personnel, Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (Bumed), Coast Guard, Navy Officer, Navy Fitness, Phillipine Army, and Air Force for the period prior to 1964. The latter were in the process of being moved from the sixth floor. Some of the oldest records in the center dating to 1885 were located on this floor. Since each of the above described systems are self-explanatory as to what records they contain, no further description is being set forth other than to indicate that all Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard records for personnel discharged prior to 1964 are located on the fifth floor. All Navy records of personnel

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discharged since then are located in the registry system on the second floor, or in the New Navy Registry on the third floor.

The 15,700,000 records on five are the source of about 15 percent of the FBI's work at the center. Water damage to the fifth floor, while better than previously estimated, is still severe, primarily due to water running off the sixth floor. These records will also require extensive processing due to water and humidity damage. At this time it is planned to totally remove these records from the building to afford safe salvage and demolition operations on the sixth floor. A determination of the structural integrity of the fifth floor which requires the drilling of core samples and other engineering operations also requires the removal of these records.

The sixth floor contained more than 20 million records in five systems identified as World War I, World War II, Post World War, Air Force (prior to 1964) and a section of Army New Registry referred to as 1973 Registry. With the exception of an insignificant percentage of 1973 registry, the records on the sixth floor were totally destroyed. Salvage of any remnants, if attempted, will take many years, and from the standpoint of utilization by the Bureau, they are totally lost. The sixth floor represented up to 30 percent of Bureau work at various points in time, more than that amount during high NA and election activity.

St. Louis is continuing to maintain liaison with records center officials in order to be appraised of all developments in planning for the future of the Center, and disposition of remaining records. Plans for records tentatively scheduled to be removed from the fourth and fifth floors, but not yet made final, will be immediately brought to the attention of the Bureau. St. Louis is also attempting to determine what this office will be permitted, as to future review of remaining records. It must be noted, however, that center employees are being placed on leave without pay, and there are no current plans for recall of employees other than those in key positions. Without adequate facilities and without personnel to make charge-outs and to refile, utilization of the records will not be immediately possible, and may

SL 52-4856

not be available for a long time to come.

It is estimated that removal of water from the building alone will take three weeks, and that reclamation of the records cannot even begin until the safety of the building has been determined and the water removed.

While a period of six months might bring limited access to some records, a year or more would be more nearly accurate. USARCPAC is proceeding on the belief that a year will be required to make the building occupiable.

Depending on results of analysis of structural data developed thus far, that time estimate may be too optimistic, and a much longer period of time may be more accurate if the building is found unstable. It should be noted that present planning does not include rebuilding of the top floor, which will make the building only a five story building. When the building is reopened, space, of course, will be at a premium.

The above data is furnished the Bureau to provide insight as to the future of military records keeping in St. Louis, and of efforts being made by the St. Louis Division to determine how that future will effect the Bureau's procedures relating to review of military records.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Record center too damaged to hunt for arson evidence

Any possibility of finding physical evidence of arson at the Military Personnel Records Center in Overland, devastated by fire last week, was ruled out Thursday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Six FBI agents who spent the entire day Tuesday amid the rubble on the sixth floor of the immense structure found damage so complete that further examination would be pointless, Robert G. Kunkel, special agent in charge of the FBI office here, said in an interview.

"THE ONLY WAY we'll ever establish arson — if that's what it was — will be through interviews," Kunkel said.

He said more than 80 persons who were in or near the building when the fire started last Thursday have been questioned and more interviews are planned.

The fire centered on the top floor of the six-story building,

## Editorial on Page 16A

two blocks long and a block wide. The center held some 56 million files on armed forces personnel, about 20 million of them on the sixth floor.

"A thorough examination of the sixth floor disclosed virtually complete destruction, at least 95 per cent of the records destroyed and only a

small percentage of them partially salvageable," Kunkel said.

"We also located the probable original site of the fire," he said.

"WE DETERMINED that it started near the center of the building, at a point buried under tons of concrete and two to three feet of wet, charred rubble from burned records.

"Because of the collapse of the 10-inch-thick concrete roof in the area, a thorough examination for evidence of arson will not be possible.

"The original fire site is permanently inaccessible and will be demolished as the sixth floor is removed by heavy construction equipment."

ment."

The roof shifted seven inches Tuesday, Kunkel said "and as of Tuesday night, people have been pretty much evacuated."

HE NOTED THAT the records center, larger in floor space than the Empire State Building and second only to the Pentagon in size, was doused with 50 million gallons of water during the fire, which raged out of control for two days.

Arson was considered a possibility because there have been about a dozen small fires in the building in the last two years, most of them started in wastebaskets, Kunkel noted.

Other possibilities being considered, he said, are accident, spontaneous combustion and electrical faults.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pg. 3A, St. Louis  
GLOBE-DEMOCRAT,  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Date: 7/20/73

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

MAJOR FIRE, NAT'L  
PERSONNEL RECORDS CEN-  
TER (NPRC-M), DGP -  
POSSIBLE ARSON

Character:

or

Classification: 52-4856

Submitting Office: St. Louis

☒ Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

JUL 20 1973

b7C



NR021 WA PLAIN

12:18PM URGENT 7-20-73 SLP

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY  
(NPRC-M), DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - POSSIBLE ARSON,  
OO: ST. LOUIS.

REBUTEL TO ALL OFFICES 7/12/73.

FOR INFORMATION OF ALL OFFICES FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEE  
CIVILIAN RECORDS ARE MAINTAINED IN SEPARATE BUILDING THAT WAS NOT  
AFFECTED BY FIRE. ALL OFFICES CONTINUE TO REQUEST CIVILIAN RECORD  
CHECKS BY ST. LOUIS. ST. LOUIS WILL ADVISE FBIHQ WHEN MILITARY  
RECORD CHECKS CAN BE RESUMED.

END

90  
52-4846-88

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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 20 1973	

b7C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) P

DATE: 7-16-73

FROM :

SA [REDACTED]

b7C

SUBJECT:

UNSUBS;  
MAJOR FIRE  
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY  
ST. LOUIS, MO.  
7-12-73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON

On 7-12-73 attempts were made to locate [REDACTED] Illinois, an address obtained from the Federal Records Center (FRC) 9700 Page, St. Louis, Mo., with negative results.

[REDACTED] of the above address, telephone number [REDACTED] advised that she has lived at this address for approximately six weeks and that she had been informed by a neighbor that this residence had been vacant for approximately one year. She further advised that she knew no one by the name of [REDACTED] however, she herself was employed at the Federal Records Center. Interview with [REDACTED] is the subject of a separate communication. She further advised that this residence had been purchased from Halloran Real Estate, Cahokia, Illinois, telephone 337-5400 and that perhaps if [REDACTED] had had dealings with Halloran Real Estate they may be able to furnish a current address.

b7C

Inquiry at the Centreville Police Department revealed no record of [REDACTED]

On 7-13-73, [REDACTED] an employee of FRC and also a shop steward, advised he knew [REDACTED] well and knew him to reside in the [REDACTED] St. Louis area and perhaps might have an address for him at his residence and if so, would furnish same at a later time.

2 - St. Louis  
MRP:ss

mtg<sup>2</sup> M



52-4856-98 91

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DUIS	

**SL 52-4856**

**L E A D S**

**THE ST. LOUIS DIVISION**

**AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

**Will continue efforts to locate [REDACTED]  
who was employed on the night shift on the evening of  
7/11-12/73.**

b7C

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This form may be submitted in legible hand printing.
2. Use separate form for each individual on whom record is requested.
3. Make effort to furnish FBI identification number, law enforcement identification number, or military service number.
4. Furnish descriptive data and fingerprint classification only when FBI number not available.
5. Indicate office for reply in lower right corner only. Also list in lower right corner all offices which should receive copies of available records. Include carbon of FD-9 for each office receiving copies and forward with original to Bureau.
6. Do not fill in block in lower left corner.

To: DIRECTOR, FBI		Attention: Identification Division		Date <b>7-16-73</b>	
Re <b>MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY, ST. LOUIS, MO. 7-12-73 DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON</b>					
Field File No. <b>52-4856</b>					
Furnish the Known Identification Record of the Following:					
Name		FBI No.		Other No. <b>SSAN</b>	
Aliases <b>NONE</b>					
Sex <b>M</b>	Race <b>N</b>	Birth Date	Birthplace.		Residence <b>ST. LOUIS, MO.</b>
Height <b>5'7"</b>	Weight <b>170</b>	Build <b>Med</b>	Hair <b>BLK</b>	Eyes <b>BAN</b>	Complexion <b>DARK</b>
Age <b>43</b>					
Fingerprint Classification			Scars, marks and tattoos		
Also Furnish: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photo <input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprints <input type="checkbox"/> Handwriting Specimens			b7C		
Identification Division's Reply <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On basis of information furnished, unable to identify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal Files <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Files <input type="checkbox"/> All Files <input type="checkbox"/> Record Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Photo Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Photo Not Available <input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprints Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Handwriting Specimen Attached			Return Reply to: <b>SAC ST. LOUIS (52-4856)</b> KPS Send Copies To:		

**52-4856-92**  
SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....  
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....  
**JUL 22 1973**  
LOUIS  
**107**

FBI

Transmit in \_\_\_\_\_ Via Airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code) (Priority)Date 7/18/73*Chk* To: SAC, Albany

From: Director, FBI

**MILITARY RECORDS  
FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY MATTERS**

In view of the fire which caused heavy destruction of military records at St. Louis, Missouri, it will not be possible to check these records with regard to National Academy applicants for an indefinite period.

It is not desirable to hold up the completion of an investigation for the check of these records. The Bureau will not accept this as a reason for delinquency. Upon the completion of all other investigation, submit the final results to FBI Headquarters with the notation that military records were not reviewed, if this be the case.

In lieu of a review of the military records, you should request the applicant to produce his discharge and Form DD-214 for review by an Agent. In some cases, it will also be possible to verify the individual's military service by checking his Veterans Administration record. You should continue to check the Defense Central Indices of Investigations records through the Baltimore Division on all applicants with prior military service.

2 - All Field Offices

(Do not type below this line.)

52-4856-93

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JUL 22 1973	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

12

[REDACTED]  
July 14, 1973

Mr. Clarence M. Kelley, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

This letter relates to the fire at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis County, which your agents are presently investigating.

The attachments (5 pages) describe what I consider to be "hard evidence" relating to the origin of the fire. Reference is made to one attachment, a copy of the letter from Representative Rodino to Representative Hungate dated June 28, 1973.

b7C

The recording described in my "Statement" (a copy herewith attached) was stored in the Center. Twice before an effort has been made to destroy this recording by arson with extensive damage to government property.

There is one complication in regard to the investigation - the present agent-in-charge of the St. Louis FBI office. This individual, upon learning the details of this case and being a long time favorite of the late John Edgar Hoover, is very likely to do everything that he can to cover up. Surely you will remember that he was transferred to the St. Louis office by Acting Director Gray as a disciplinary action because of a cover up.

Supervision of the investigation obviously should not be by this man and I urge you to take appropriate action.

Very truly yours,  
[REDACTED]

cc: Representative William L. Hungate  
Representative Peter W. Rodino, Jr.  
[REDACTED] St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
[REDACTED] Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
[REDACTED] Washington, D. C.  
[REDACTED] Los Angeles Times

52-4836-94

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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UIS	

[REDACTED]

WILLIAM L. HUNGATE  
9TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

2437 RAYBURN BUILDING  
PHONE: 202-225-2936

SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
REFORM OF FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAWS

June 29, 1973

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Missouri [REDACTED]

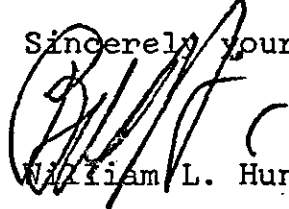
b7C

Dear [REDACTED]

In further reference to your letter regarding the Federal Bureau of Investigation, enclosed is a letter I recently received from Chairman Rodino advising that your correspondence has been made a part of the records of the Committee on the Judiciary.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
William L. Hungate

WLH/mah

PETER W. RODINO, JR. (H.J.) CHAIRMAN

WORLD D. DONOHUE, MASS.  
JOCK BROOK, TEX.  
JOBERT W. KASTENMEIER, WIS.  
DON EDWARDS, CALIF.  
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JAMES R. MANN, S.C.  
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LIZABETH HOLTZMAN, N.Y.  
WAYNE OWENS, UTAH  
EDWARD MEZVINSKY, IOWA

EDWARD HUTCHINSON, MICH.  
ROBERT MCCLORY, ILL.  
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TOM RAILSBACK, ILL.  
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M. CALDWELL BUTLER, VA.  
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TRENT LOTT, MISS.  
HAROLD V. FROELICH, WIS.  
CARLOS J. MOORHEAD, CALIF.  
JOSEPH J. MARAZITI, N.J.

Congress of the United States  
Committee on the Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 28, 1973

GENERAL COUNSEL  
JEROME M. ZEIPMAN  
ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL  
GARNER J. CLINE  
COUNSEL  
JOSEPH FISCHER  
HERBERT FUCHS  
HERBERT E. HOFFMAN  
WILLIAM P. SHATTUCK  
ALAN A. PARKER  
JAMES F. FALCO  
MAURICE A. BARBOZA  
DONALD G. BENN  
FRANKLIN G. POLK  
ROGER A. FAULEY  
THOMAS E. MOONEY  
PETER T. STRAUS  
MICHAEL W. BLOMMER  
ALEXANDER B. COOK

Honorable William L. Hungate  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

Thank you for bringing to my attention correspondence from your constituent, [redacted] concerning difficulties he encountered with the F.B. I.

I want to assure you that [redacted] correspondence has been made a part of the records of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



PETER W. RODINO, JR.  
Chairman

FWR:dc

b7C



[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri [redacted]

b7C

June 20, 1973

Representative William L. Hungate  
9th District of Missouri  
House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20025

Dear Mr. Hungate:

It is my understanding that you are a member of the House Judiciary Committee which will very soon give consideration to legislation relating to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It will be very much appreciated if you will give or forward this letter and its attachment to any member of the Judiciary Committee who may have an interest.

The sordid case described in the attachment is known to many employees, past and present, in the Bureau and among these is [redacted]

b7C

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

## Statement

1. In the period, 1946 to 1955, except for a year of service in the Korean War, I was chief librarian at the VA hospital, North Little Rock, Arkansas. In the course of an administrative hearing, which started in 1953 and continued into 1954, with every word being voice recorded, I was witness to the raw intimidation of the hospital personnel officer.

2. The recording of this administrative hearing, in the form of discs, was stored in the hospital administration building, an old brick and wood structure. Most of the testimonies relating to the intimidation, despite a ruling to the contrary by the hearing committee chairman, was deleted from the typed transcript of the hearing.

3. Within a short time there were four incendiary fires at the hospital with destruction of property valued at nearly \$1,000,000. There were two efforts to destroy the hospital administration building.

4. To me, and apparently to others, it was reasonable to assume that the recordings housed in the hospital administration building were the target of the arsonist.

5. A few days after the first effort to burn the administration building I decided to make a visit to the Little Rock office of the FBI. Actually, I had already had a brief conversation, at the hospital, with the two FBI agents who were investigating the fires.

6. My opening statement (herein necessarily paraphrased) was this: "I believe that the intimidation of homosexuals is involved in the fires." With that, the two secretaries who were typing in the office stopped work and prepared to listen. The two agents asked that I go outside the office with them for a continuation of the discussion.

7. Outside the office, in the hall, I was not allowed to proceed further. "You are not the first hospital employee," I was told, "to come to us with such a statement. We have been directed by a high authority to make no investigation of any contention that the intimidation of homosexuals is involved in the fires at the hospital."

8. I made inquiry as to the identity of the "high authority" and was advised that it was J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

9. The foregoing is, of course, nothing less than the obstruction of justice.

10. This action on the part of J. Edgar Hoover resulted in the following. The FBI made no investigation whatever of my contention (and the contention of others) that the target of the arsonist was the recording of the administrative hearing wherein the hospital personnel officer had been subjected to intimidation and identification as a homosexual.

11. Additionally, there was no public identification of the personnel officer - a friend of Hoover of long acquaintance - as a homosexual.

12. All in all, it was a cover up of a major scandal.

13. I wrote a letter to Senator Fulbright in regard to the foregoing.

14. My letter to Senator Fulbright resulted in my being called to the Little Rock office of the FBI for an "interview."

15. I was told that Hoover was very angry in regard to the letter that I had written to Senator Fulbright. There were threats of action which would be taken against me if I wrote another letter in regard to the case.

16. An effort was made, nevertheless, to convince me that the FBI had "solved" the case. The agents were "suspicious" of several mentally incompetent patients at the hospital and, in particular, [redacted] a World War II veteran. [redacted] had, so I was told, "a criminal mind."

17. Further, so I was told, they had asked that [redacted] be taken from the open ward where he was then assigned and transferred to the hospital's maximum security ward. The medical staff, citing the improvement that [redacted] was making, offered objection to this request on the part of the FBI.

b7C

18. I protested against their "solution" of the case - pointing out that their action was a severe punishment for a man who in all probability was innocent. My protest met with ridicule. "The man is insane," so I was told, "and wouldn't know whether he was in an open ward or locked up." I realized that these agents knew nothing about mental illness.

19. [redacted] spent the next fifteen years of his life, from January of 1955 to January of 1970, in the maximum security ward at the hospital. Indeed he was, as he has described those years, "a political prisoner."

20. Finally, after fifteen years of continuous effort, I was able to secure his return to an open ward. Incidentally I devoted a great deal of effort to establishing the fact that [redacted] had never before been accused of any crime.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, St. Louis (52-5856)

DATE: July 20, 1973

✓ FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: MAJOR FIRE  
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY (NPRC-M)  
JULY 12, 1973  
DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY -  
POSSIBLE ARSON  
OO: ST. LOUIS

Re St. Louis teletype dated July 18, 1973.

Enclosed is one copy each of a letter dated July 14, 1973,  
and its enclosures received from [redacted]

[redacted] Missouri [redacted]

b7C

Review of Bureau files disclose [redacted] was interviewed by Bureau Agents in connection with a Crime on Government Reservation investigation during 1954 involving a series of fires at the Ft. Roots Veterans Administration Hospital, North Little Rock, Arkansas, where [redacted] was employed as a [redacted] St. Louis appears to be in possession of complete background information regarding [redacted] See your file 70-509.

Letter received from [redacted] being forwarded to St. Louis in view of captioned investigation. Receipt of [redacted] letter not being acknowledged.

1 - Little Rock (Enclosures - 5) (For info)

Enclosures - 5

52-4856-95

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>ma</i>	FILED <i>ma</i>
JUL 22 1973	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

[redacted]





UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

ADDRESS:

DIRECTOR ST. LOUIS REGION  
U.S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63103

ST. LOUIS REGION

COMPREHENSIVE MISSOURI, KANSAS, NEBRASKA, IOWA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63103

JUL 20 1973

YOUR REFERENCE

TO: All Agency Administrative/Personnel Officers

SUBJECT: Fire - Military Records Center

The Federal Executive Board met today to discuss the total impact of the recent disaster and what support activities should be provided by the Federal community.

The Human Resources Committee was charged with full responsibility for any type of placement activities of personnel that may be affected on either a short or long term basis. As Chairman of that Committee I have designated [redacted] as Project Officer for this function. [redacted] of his office will serve as alternate. They may be contacted at 622-4271 or in Room 1731 at 1520 Market Street.

b7C

The current situation is that the staff of the facility has been granted administrative through Wednesday, July 25, 1973. A portion of the people have been recalled to work, but the sixth floor of the building will apparently have to be completely removed. The result is that Army and GSA are facing two completely different sets of problems. Army feels they will return to full operation almost immediately, while GSA has suffered record damage that is quite extensive and could affect their staffing seriously. Should this be the case, your assistance in providing outplacement for these people will be vital.

We will provide you with current information as soon as it becomes available and will be requesting your full commitment to solving the problems that emerge.

Sincerely,

*Francis V. Yanak*  
Francis V. Yanak, Chairman  
Human Resources Committee  
Federal Executive Board

52-4856-96

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 23 1973	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## No Proof Of Arson At Center

Investigation of the massive fire at the Military Personnel Records Center in Overland has uncovered no evidence to indicate how the fire began, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has reported.

"We've found no physical evidence to indicate arson or to indicate what was the cause," said Charles J. Devic, assistant special agent of the FBI's St. Louis office. He said that possibilities under consideration included accident, spontaneous combustion and electrical faults, as well as arson.

Agents have been in the building, but have not gone yet to the sixth floor, Devic said. Government agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Standards, are testing the structure to see whether the sixth floor is safe to enter.

"It's still possible that it may be unsafe, since it's supporting the weight of the roof and the rest of the material on the floor," he said. He indicated that the tests probably would be completed this week.

Arson has been considered a possibility because the building has had about a dozen small fires over the last two years. Most of these were started in waste baskets, a General Services Administration spokesman said.

FBI agents have interviewed more than 80 persons who were in or near the building last Thursday, Devic said. Most of these persons worked in the building.

The sixth floor held about 30,000,000 paper files on former members of the Army and Air Force. The entire building, a block wide and two blocks long, contained the files of about 56,000,000 armed forces personnel.

A spokesman for the GSA said that the preliminary investigation had indicated that 45,000 cubic feet of records on the first five floors had been damaged by water. "That's out of a total of more than 1,000,000 cubic feet, so we came off pretty well on that," he said.

On the sixth floor, the first look indicated that about 80 per cent of the records had been destroyed. "The only exception is a portion of the new Army registry files, the files on recently discharged personnel," he said. "That appears to be about 95 per cent salvageable."

Most of the 2200 civilian employees at the center will be on administrative leave through next Wednesday, an Army spokesman said. About 50 intermittent employees may apply at the local state employment offices for unemployment compensation.

Some employees may be called to work on essential projects, and others among the full-time and temporary personnel are subject to call when needed, he said. Those on vacation will continue to be held on vacation status, he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P13A, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 7/19/73  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: SL

☐ Being Investigated

52-4856 97

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108 b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 20, 1973

[redacted] (no middle name) [redacted]  
St. Louis, Missouri, telephone [redacted]  
Federal Protective Service (FPS), Military Personnel  
Records Center (MPRC), 9700 Page, Overland, Missouri,  
furnished the following information:

He stated he worked the midnight to 8:00 A.M. shift at the Records Center and arrived at the Records Center on July 12, 1973, at approximately midnight when he signed in. After receiving his gun from the FPS office located on the west end of the building, he proceeded to the third floor to conduct a routine check of same. He then returned to the first floor to get the sign out sheet for the custodial employees. He was in the process of positioning himself near the east entrance of the building to sign out the employees when he received a telephone call from [redacted] who advised him there was a fire on the fourth floor.

b7C

[redacted] took the passenger elevator to the fourth floor where he stated the smoke was very bad and difficult to breathe. He called [redacted] from the fourth floor and told him he felt the fire was on the fifth floor and that he could not make it any further. [redacted] said he heard no explosions nor did he see any flames during this period that he was on the fourth floor.

[redacted] advised that he then returned to the first floor and awaited the arrival of the fire department.

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-98  
by SA WILLIAM J. AHLER, JR.  
SA RICHARD W. HERMAN WJA:pdg Date dictated 7/18/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 20, 1973

[redacted] St. Louis, Missouri, telephone [redacted] advised that he was employed as a [redacted] with the Federal Protective Service (FPS) at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC), 9700 Page, Overland, Missouri, telephone 268-7312. He furnished the following information:

[redacted] stated that he worked the midnight to 8:00 A.M. shift and on July 12, 1973, signed in at the MPRC at approximately midnight wherein he was given his gun and the keys to the FPS vehicle. He stated he left the building through the west entrance at approximately 12:10 A.M. to inspect the FPS car which was parked in the west entrance in front of the steps to the lobby. As he was inspecting the vehicle, a white male approximately 25 to 30 years old, long hippie-type hair, wearing a white motorcycle helmet and riding a small motorcycle, approached him.

This individual, who was unknown to [redacted] advised him that he had observed the fire on the southwest corner of the Records Center. [redacted] entered the FPS car and drove to the southwest corner of the Records Center where he observed the fire burning on the sixth floor approximately one-third down the side of the building in an eastward direction. The flames were shooting out the windows directly above the red computer cabinets which are located on the fifth floor. The blaze encompassed three small windows in the top of the sixth floor.

b7C

[redacted] reentered the vehicle and drove back to the west entrance of the Records Center where he reported the fire to FPS [redacted]. [redacted] in turn called the Overland Fire Department as [redacted] took the passenger elevator on the west end of the building to the sixth floor.

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 99  
by SA [redacted] WJA:pdp Date dictated 7/18/73



SL 52-4856

As the door to the elevator opened on the sixth floor smoke rushed in and [ ] pressed the button for the fourth floor. He exited on the fourth floor and then walked to the sixth floor via the stairs. He was unable to open the door at the top of the stairs on the sixth floor as the smoke was too heavy. He returned to the fifth floor via the stairs and called [ ] on a phone.

b7C

[ ] stated he remained in the fifth floor area until members of the fire department had arrived and set up their firefighting equipment in the snackbar on the fifth floor.

[ ] estimated that approximately 30 custodial people were in the building that evening and would be working throughout the building. According to their schedule, they normally quit at 12:30 A.M. and exit through the east and west doors of the building. To [ ] knowledge, no one else would be in the Records Center with the exception of individuals who work on the computers on the fourth floor. [ ] stated that no one works on the sixth floor at night with the exception of the custodial force.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 20, 1973

[redacted] St. Louis, Missouri, was interviewed at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC), 9700 Page, and furnished the following information:

[redacted] stated that it was his personal opinion that the fire at the MPRC had begun somewhere in the immediate vicinity of upright columns A-17 and A-20 on the sixth floor of the building, which is the top floor. [redacted] based this theory on reports of initial sightings of the blaze and from a physical examination of the debris remaining after the fire was extinguished.

He stated that the first fire alarm was sounded at approximately 12:13 A.M. on July 12, 1973. He arrived shortly thereafter as an initial inspection of the premises was being conducted to determine the exact location of the fire in order that the fire fighting equipment might be directed accordingly. It was first thought the fire was on the fourth or fifth floor. An unusual amount of smoke was encountered in the men's room on the fourth floor near the escalators in the center of the building. A subsequent inspection of the fifth floor resulted in finding a heavier concentration of smoke and the presence of heat apparently radiating downward from the sixth floor.

b7C

An inspection of the sixth floor was impossible because of the intense heat and smoke. He stated that the heat was so intense that the face masks of the firemen melted and the black firemen coats turned white in the heat.

Based on the above-described initial inspection, [redacted] felt that the fire had been burning for some time before it was reported, possibly as early as 4:00 P.M. the previous day. As no windows were open nor were any circulating fans operating on the sixth floor, he believed that the smoke was forced to seek a

7/17/73 Overland, Missouri SL 52-4856-100  
Interviewed on [redacted] File #  
SA [redacted] WJA:pdp 7/18/73  
by [redacted] Date dictated

SL 52-4856

downward path to the other floors and the path of least resistance was offered by the escalator passages. As the fire continued to burn, the heat built up, forced the flames upward and outward along the ceiling line until they broke out the exterior windows at a point near column A-17 and A-20 on the south side of the building.

A physical examination from the south exterior windows to a point approximately 150 feet north toward the center of the building and bounded by two north - south imaginary lines on the west and east from columns A-17 and A-20 respectively revealed that a great amount of heat had been concentrated in this particular area. As one approaches the center of the building, the metal open shelves which formerly contained military records are twisted and turned and in some places actually melted.

In the area of greatest heat, the concrete ceiling had collapsed on the filing cabinets and on the floor. Military records in this area are completely destroyed and in most places no ash remains. As one progresses southward toward the exterior wall within this afore-described area, remains of the files can be found on the shelves. The ashes progress from practically no remains to powdered white ash to heavier gray ash to charred chunks of files to a point near the south windows where the files are approximately 75% intact with only the edges being burned.

stated that based on his survey in the A-17 to A-20 column area, he believed that the fire had begun in this vicinity approximately 75 to 100 feet from the south windows in a northerly direction.

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/20/73

[redacted] Federal Protective Service, National Personnel Records Center-Military (NPRC-M), 9700 Page, furnished the copies of written statements that the Protective Service had taken from the following protective officers and guards:



b7C

[redacted] was the [redacted] Thursday, July 12, 1973 from Midnight to 8:00 A.M. and [redacted] was the [redacted] on Wednesday, July 11, 1973, from 3:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. Between 11:00 P.M. and 12:00 Midnight, July 11, 1973, due to scheduling, there would have only been two guards on duty, [redacted] [redacted] (phonetic).

It is noted that statements from all the guards had not been taken at this time but all will be interviewed.

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 *101*  
by SA [redacted] ck *Jmm* Date dictated 7/19/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 23/73

[redacted] was re-interviewed at his home at [redacted] St. Louis, Missouri, and furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised that since he was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] on July 12, 1973, he has not seen any of the custodians that work under him at the Military Record Center. [redacted] stated again that he learned about the fire about 15 or 25 minutes after midnight on July 11, 1973. [redacted] further advised that to date he has no suspects concerning the fire.

[redacted] was questioned about the master key that he has access to, and he advised that he seldom ever uses the master key and remembers specifically that he did not use the key on the night of July 11, 1973. [redacted] stated that this key is held by the night guard in the record center. b7C

[redacted] was questioned concerning a [redacted] who may have possibly been on the fifth or sixth floors on the night of July 11, 1973. [redacted] stated that to his knowledge, [redacted] was never on the fifth or sixth floors and was working on the first floor that night. [redacted] further advised, however, that [redacted] are good friends and ride to work together.

Interviewed on July 16, 1973 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-102  
by SA [redacted] :ls1 Date dictated July 20, 1973

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/23/73

[redacted] St. Louis, Missouri, was informed of the identity of the interviewing Agent as well as the fact that he was being interviewed concerning a possible Federal violation in connection with the Destruction of Government Property. [redacted] was advised that he was being reinterviewed in efforts to determine the exact times of his whereabouts on the evening of July 11, 1973. [redacted] stated that he arrived at work at approximately 3:45 p.m. and went to work on the second floor at the Military Personnel Record Center. He worked on the second floor in the corridor until his lunch break at 7:30 p.m. Following his lunch break he went up to the sixth floor where he worked from approximately 8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. He then went down to the first floor where he worked for an additional two hours until shortly after midnight at which time he changed clothes and prepared to sign out and go home. He recalls that he first heard of a fire in the building at approximately 12:25 a.m., when he was on the first floor. [redacted] stated that he is considerably older than the majority of the employees at Military Personnel Record Center and does not associate with his fellow employees. He, therefore, could not recall the names of any of the other individuals who worked on the sixth floor with him.

b7C

Interviewed on 7/17/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 *103*

by *SA* [redacted] :vls Date dictated 7/20/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date dictated **7/20/73**

[redacted] was informed of the identity of the interviewing Agent as well as the fact that he was being interviewed concerning a possible Federal violation in connection with the Destruction of Government Property. [redacted] advised that he is employed by the UNIVAC Division of the Sperry Rand Corporation, 4100 Lindell, St. Louis, Missouri and for the past three to four months has been working regularly at the Computer Section of the Military Personnel Record Center, 9700 Page. He stated that this section is located in the northwest corner of the fourth floor of the building. His regular work shift is from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and that on July 11, 1973, he arrived at work at approximately 8:00 a.m. and departed shortly after 5:00 p.m. He recalled that he brought a sandwich to work on that day and remained on the fourth floor for his lunch break.

b7C

[redacted] stated that although he is not familiar with all of the employees on the fourth floor of the building, he did not note any suspicious individuals on the fourth floor on that day nor was he aware of any unusual activities on that day. [redacted] was unable to furnish any information regarding the fire at Military Personnel Record Center.

In addition, the following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Residence	[redacted] Missouri [redacted] Apartments)
Height	6'
Weight	170
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Marital Status	Married

Interviewed on **7/17/73** at **St. Louis, Missouri** File # **SL 52-4856** *104*

*40* [redacted] :vls Date dictated **7/20/73**

**SL 52-4856**

**Wife**   
**Military Service** **U. S. Air Force, 1957 - 1962**  
**Social Security**  
**Account Number**

b7C



INSTRUCTIONS

1. This form may be submitted in legible hand printing.
2. Use separate form for each individual on whom record is requested.
3. Make effort to furnish FBI identification number, law enforcement identification number, or military service number.
4. Furnish descriptive data and fingerprint classification only when FBI number not available.
5. Indicate office for reply in lower right corner only. Also list in lower right corner all offices which should receive copies of available records. Include carbon of FD-9 for each office receiving copies and forward with original to Bureau.
6. Do not fill in block in lower left corner.

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

Attention: Identification Division

Date

7-16-73

Re MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY, ST. LOUIS, MO. 7-12-73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON

Field File No. 52-4856

Furnish The Known Identification Record of the Following:

Name

[Redacted Name]

FBI No.

Other No. SSAN

[Redacted Other No.]

Alias

NONE

Sex

F

Race

N

Birth Date

[Redacted Birth Date]

Birthplace

[Redacted Birthplace]

Mo.

Residence

[Redacted Residence]

Mo.

b7C

Height

5'2"

Weight

133

Build

STOCKY

Hair

BLK

Eyes

BRN

Complexion

DARK

Age

[Redacted Age]

Fingerprint Classification

Scars, marks and tattoos

Also Furnish:

☒ Photo

☐ Fingerprints

☐ Handwriting Specimens

Identification Division's Reply

☐ On basis of information furnished, unable to identify:

☒ Criminal Files

☐ Civil Files

☐ All Files

☐ Record Attached

☐ Photo Attached

☐ Photo Not Available

☐ Fingerprints Attached

☐ Handwriting Specimen Attached

Return Reply to:

SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

Send Copies To:

52-4856-105

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

JUL 25 1973

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This form may be submitted in legible hand printing.
2. Use separate form for each individual on whom record is requested.
3. Make effort to furnish FBI identification number, law enforcement identification number, or military service number.
4. Furnish descriptive data and fingerprint classification only when FBI number not available.
5. Indicate office for reply in lower right corner only. Also list in lower right corner all offices which should receive copies of available records. Include carbon of FD-9 for each office receiving copies and forward with original to Bureau.
6. Do not fill in block in lower left corner.

To: DIRECTOR, FBI Attention: Identification Division

Date **7-16-73**

Re **MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY, ST. LOUIS, MO. 7-12-73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON**

Field File No. **52-4856**

Furnish The Known Identification Record of the Following:

Name  FBI No.   
Other No.

Aliases

Sex <b>M</b>	Race <b>N</b>	Birth Date <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 80px; height: 20px;"></span>	Residence <b>OKLAHOMA</b>	<b>MO.</b>		
Height <b>5-9</b>	Weight <b>142</b>	Build <b>Medium</b>	Hair <b>Grey</b>	Eyes <b>Brown</b>	Complexion <b>DARK</b>	Age <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 40px; height: 20px;"></span>

Fingerprint Classification

Scars, marks and tattoos

Also Furnish:

- ☒ Photo  
☐ Fingerprints  
☐ Handwriting Specimens

Identification Division's Reply

☒ On basis of information furnished, unable to identify:

☒ Criminal Files ☐ Civil Files ☐ All Files

- ☐ Record Attached  
☐ Photo Attached  
☐ Photo Not Available  
☐ Fingerprints Attached  
☐ Handwriting Specimen Attached

Return Reply to:

**SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856)**

Send Copies To:

**52-4856-106**  
JUL 25 1973

b7C

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This form may be submitted in legible hand printing.
2. Use separate form for each individual on whom record is requested.
3. Make effort to furnish FBI identification number, law enforcement identification number, or military service number.
4. Furnish descriptive data and fingerprint classification only when FBI number not available.
5. Indicate office for reply in lower right corner only. Also list in lower right corner all offices which should receive copies of available records. Include carbon of FD-9 for each office receiving copies and forward with original to Bureau.
6. Do not fill in block in lower left corner.

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

Attention: Identification Division

Date

7-16-73

Re MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY, ST. LOUIS, MO. 7-12-73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON

Field File No. 52-4856

Furnish The Known Identification Record of the Following:

Name	<div></div>			FBI No.	<div></div>								
Aliases	<div>2 <del>James</del> LS Cunningham, Jr. drawers planchard as given</div>												
Sex	M	Race	N	Birth Date	<div></div>		Birthplace	<div></div> MISSOURI					
Height	5'8"	Weight	170	Build	Med	Hair	BLK	Eyes	BRN	Complexion	DARK	Age	<div></div>

b7C

Fingerprint Classification

Scars, marks and tattoos

Also Furnish:

- ☒ Photo  
☐ Fingerprints  
☐ Handwriting Specimens

Identification Division's Reply

- ☒ On basis of information furnished, unable to identify:

☒ Criminal Files ☐ Civil Files ☐ All Files

- ☐ Record Attached  
☐ Photo Attached  
☐ Photo Not Available  
☐ Fingerprints Attached  
☐ Handwriting Specimen Attached

Return Reply to:

SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

Send Copies To:

52-4856-107

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 25 1973	

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/19/73

[redacted] was interviewed at the guard gate of the Adjutant General Publications Center next to the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC), where he had voluntarily appeared and requested to talk to an Agent regarding the fire at the MPRC.

[redacted] advised he is a [redacted], Air Force Reserve (retired), and resides at [redacted] New Jersey, no home telephone. He produced military identification verifying his military status.

[redacted] stated that he has been corresponding with the MPRC, trying to obtain information from his military file. During World War II he was diagnosed [redacted]. He believes this was an erroneous diagnosis and he has since been examined by private physicians who have told him they could not [redacted] at this time and that it was doubtful if he ever had the disease. In 1966 when [redacted] retired from the service he was initially placed in a rest home, however, he was not confined to the home and has, subsequently, held several jobs.

b7C

[redacted] believes that the MPRC has released information concerning his medical history to employers and other people which caused them to treat [redacted] with caution. He said on one instance he was employed by a company and, shortly thereafter, everyone he worked with became very cool to him and would not associate with him. He has no specific proof that he was treated in this manner because people saw his military records. Because of this situation he has been writing the MPRC trying to determine what information is contained in his file. He first wrote on November 24, 1972, but received the letter back attached to a form requesting more information from him. After receiving his letter back [redacted] decided to go to St. Louis personally and look at his file. He arrived at St. Louis yesterday, July 15, 1973, and had no idea that there had been a fire at the MPRC until he heard the news in his motel room. [redacted] now believes that the fire was started intentionally by an employee of the MPRC who did not want to process his records. Another possibility

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 *AB*  
by SA [redacted] MED:jet 7/19/73

SL 52-4856

was that one of the employees was just tired of working and decided to burn the records up so he wouldn't have to work with them anymore.

[redacted] was informed that the above information would be taken into consideration along with other aspects of the investigation. He stated he would be returning to New Jersey on July 17, 1973. He can also be reached through his employment, Gorods Corporation, Blairstown, New Jersey, telephone number 362-6153.

b7C

[redacted] is a White male, born [redacted] 165 pounds, 5'8", short gray hair, brown eyes. service number [redacted] social security number [redacted]

52-4856-109

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>mm</i>	FILED <i>mm</i>
JUL 26 1973	



S  
*mm*

b7C

## INSTRUCTIONS

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2. Use separate form for each individual on whom record is requested.
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6. Do not fill in block in lower left corner.

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

Attention: Identification Division

Date

7-16-73

Re MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY, ST. LOUIS, MO. 7-12-73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON

Field File No. 52-4856

Furnish The Known Identification Record of the Following:

Name

FBI No.

Other No. SSAN

Aliases

Sex

M

Race

N

Birth Date

[Redacted]

Residence

Mo.

Mo.

Height

5'6"

Weight

175

Build

Stocky

Hair

Grey

Eyes

Brown

Complexion

Dark

Age

52

Fingerprint Classification

Also Furnish:

☒ Photo☐ Fingerprints☐ Handwriting Specimens

Identification Division's Reply 7-23-73

☐ On basis of information furnished, unable to identify:
☒ Criminal Files    ☐ Civil Files    ☐ All Files
☒ Record Attached☐ Photo Attached☒ Photo Not Available ; however, one may be obtained from BDO St Louis, Mo.☐ Fingerprints Attached☐ Handwriting Specimen Attached

Return Reply to:

SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

Send Copies To:

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SERIALIZED.....FILED.....  
JUL 26 1973

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/23/73

On July 12, 1973 [redacted]  
[redacted], Missouri, advised that he is [redacted] years of age  
and attends McCluer Senior High School, [redacted] Missouri.  
[redacted] stated that he has been employed by General Services  
Administration (GSA) as a [redacted] employee since May  
working the 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM shift. [redacted] stated that  
while he was cleaning the sixth floor he noticed nothing  
unusual, as to anything that could possibly start a fire.  
[redacted] stated he worked on the sixth floor the entire night.  
[redacted] stated he left the sixth floor at 11:45 and went to  
the second floor. [redacted] stated that two other people are  
assigned to clean the sixth floor who are [redacted]  
[redacted]

b7C

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-111  
by SA [redacted] SLH:dmn Date dictated 7/18/73 b7C



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/23/73

[redacted] St. Louis, Missouri, telephone number [redacted] advised that he is employed by General Services Administration (GSA) as a [redacted] and has been employed for eight years, and worked the 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM shift. [redacted] advised he is assigned to clean the fourth floor of the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch. [redacted] stated he went to sixth floor around 5:00 PM to visit no one in particular, but "just loafing." [redacted] stated that when he was on the sixth floor he noticed nothing unusual, or anyone there that he did not know. [redacted] stated that prior to signing out after work, [redacted] told him not to leave because there was a fire on the sixth floor. [redacted] stated that he left anyway and did not pay attention to the supervisor.

b7C

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 - 112  
by SA [redacted] SLH:dmn Date dictated 7/18/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/25/73

Date of transcription \_\_\_\_\_

[redacted] National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page, home address [redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed regarding the fire at NPRC on July 11-12, 1973.

b7C

[redacted] advised that he rotated guard posts between the loading dock on the south side of the records center and the east entrance gate on the east end of the building on July 11, 1973, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. He advised that he saw absolutely nothing unusual on that particular day, and that the only people entering through the east end of the building are the service representatives, and that their technical equipment is always searched. [redacted] could provide no further information regarding the fire and stated that he has heard no information as to how it got started.

7/17/73 Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 113  
Interviewed on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
by SA [redacted] prk [signature] Date dictated 7/20/73

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/25/73

Report of Agent in Charge

[redacted] National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page, home address [redacted] St. Louis, Missouri, home telephone number [redacted] advised that he worked the 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. shift at the records center on July 11, 1973. [redacted] advised that he was stationed on Post #3, which is the control post for the west entrance, during the entire day. He stated that he saw absolutely nothing unusual take place on that day.

b7C

Interviewed on 7/17/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 114  
by SA [redacted] prk [signature] Date dictated 7/20/73

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI and is loaned to your agency;

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/25/73

[Type of transcript, if any]

[redacted] normally stationed at 4300 Goodfellow, home address [redacted] [redacted] Illinois, home telephone number [redacted] was interviewed regarding the fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), on July 11-12, 1973.

[redacted] advised that he was standing guard at the southeast gate between 11:00 and 11:30 A.M. at 9700 Page Boulevard on Saturday morning, July 14, 1973, while the fire was still in progress. [redacted] stated that at that time an automobile drove within 50 feet of the gate where it stopped, and a Negro male who drove the vehicle watched the fire for a couple of minutes. [redacted] stated that he started to walk towards the automobile and at that time the driver turned the automobile around and left the area in a hurry.

b7C

[redacted] described the automobile as being dark in color and thought it to be a two-door hardtop 1963 or 1964 Chevrolet.

Interviewed on 7/17/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 115  
by SA [redacted] prk MAN Date dictated 7/20/73



UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

ADDRESS:  
DIRECTOR ST. LOUIS REGION  
U.S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63103

ST. LOUIS REGION

COVERING MISSOURI, KANSAS, NEBRASKA, IOWA

YOUR REFERENCE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63103

JUL 26 1973

TO: All Agency Administrative/Personnel Officers

SUBJECT: Fire - Military Records Center

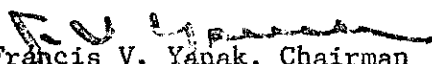
The impact of the disaster on the staffing at GSA has now been fully assessed. I am happy to report that all permanent staff members have been recalled to full-time duty and that their previous employment level will be maintained.

Access to the building has been greatly expanded and salvage and clean-up operations are well underway.

Since the agencies concerned may face additional problems in job engineering, organization restructure and retraining, the designation of [redacted] of my staff as Project Officer for assistance will remain in effect. b7C

The immediate response we received from our letter initially advising you of the problem was appreciated. I know we can count on your cooperation in dealing with any future problems which arise.

Sincerely,

  
Francis V. Yanak, Chairman  
Human Resources Committee  
Federal Executive Board



MERIT PRINCIPLES ASSURE  
QUALITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

1992-1973

52-4856-116

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 27 1973	

b7C

keep in file  
+ process records

status

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Records center a lot of damage done

By ANDREW B. WILSON  
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

The three-day-long fire that destroyed nearly all of 22 million service records on the sixth and top floor of the Military Personnel Records Center has left behind spectacular ruins.

About half the center's roof, about double the area of a football field and made of eight-inch-reinforced concrete, collapsed under the fire's intense heat.

The tall, open metal file cabinets in which most records had been stored were crushed by concrete or distorted into circus-mirror-like shapes by intense heat.

In a press conference after a guided tour of wreckage, federal officials offered only vague answers as to why steps were not taken to prevent a fire of such magnitude. They also said no decision has been reached on whether the General Services Administration will reimburse fire districts

for expenses incurred in fighting the fire.

IN AN INTERVIEW Monday, Rep. James W. Symington (Dem.), Clayton, said the fire appears to result from "a comedy of errors and inattention" on the part of the GSA and the Army, the center's original custodian and designer.

"Everywhere along the line where they could have taken a useful initiative they didn't. All the way up from the construction through the maintenance," Symington said.

Symington pledged to seek to convince the GSA, to "see the justice and appropriateness" of reimbursing area fire districts for putting out the fire.

During the two days the fire raged out of control from 11:30 to 1:30 firemen were constantly involved in fighting it. More than 30 fire districts responded.

Glen L. Smith, treasurer and a director of the Community Fire Protection District, in whose jurisdiction the fire occurred, said

the fire must have been smoldering at least six hours before it was detected.

HE SAID THE floor was so "superheated" by the time the first fireman opened a fire door that the heat melted his face mask.

He said he is amazed that the floor had no sprinkler, smoke or heat detector or fire walls.

At the press conference Harold (Bud) Nelson, GSA director of accident and fire protection, said he believes only one guard was on duty in the building the night of the fire and that he assumes the guard had checked each floor at least hourly.

When told fire officials said it would have taken about six hours for the tightly packed papers on the floor to smoulder and heat the building to such a degree before detection Nelson said, "It might have taken 10 hours, or it might have been two minutes."

NELSON SAID the GSA has been adding sprinkler systems to its records buildings since about 1963 and intended to do so at the building here.

"Frankly we had run through almost all the record centers on this (sprinklers) except for this one and one in New York," he said.

"You can't just do all this at once" was his answer to why the sprinkler system had not been completed here a full decade after GSA's initial decision to install sprinklers in its buildings.

George Begg, GSA's manager of the restoration project, said the building's sixth floor will be removed in the next three months.

He said structural repairs and work will cost from \$6 million to \$14.5 million. The cost of "restructuring" lost records from other sources was estimated at from \$4 million to \$7 million.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P4A, St. Louis Globe-Democrat, St. Louis, Missouri

7/24/73

Date  
Edition  
Author  
Editor  
Title

Character

Classification

Submitting Office SL

Indexing Instructions

52-4856-117  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED



b7C

4/25/73  
MAT

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/18/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri no telephone was interviewed at the apartment of [redacted] where he was visiting. [redacted] was advised as to the identity of the interviewing Agent by a show of his credentials and was advised that he was being interviewed concerning a fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page. [redacted] advised as follows:

He advised he is employed by the General Services Administration, Public Building Service, Custodial Force at the NPRC, 9700 Page. He advised he cleans one-half of the offices on the northeast corner of the sixth floor and that these duties do not require him to go into the records section. On July 11, 1973, he was working the 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shift. He stated he left the sixth floor at approximately 10:30 to 10:45 p.m. to go to the fourth floor, Finance Section Office, which is air-conditioned. He stated that the air-conditioning in the building is shut off after 5:00 p.m. and it is "extremely hot". When he left the sixth floor, he noticed nothing unusual and stated he knows of no one who would want to start a fire at the Records Center nor did he himself. b7C

He stated he found out about the fire when he was on the second floor waiting to leave work. He stated there were no alarms sounded and the building was not evacuated of the employees, who had to wait inside the building to sign out at 12:30 a.m.

He advised that on July 11, 1973, [redacted] had informed him that there had been two fires within the last week in the building and that [redacted] talked to him about fire prevention.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through observation and interview:

Race: White

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Louis County, Missouri File No. SL 52-4856 118  
by SA [redacted] dls Date dictated 7/17/73

SL 52-4856

**Sex:** Male  
**Height:** 5'10"  
**Weight:** 160 pounds  
**Hair:** Light brown; mustache and beard  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**date of birth:** [REDACTED]  
**place of birth:** [REDACTED] Missouri  
**Social Security Number:** [REDACTED]  
**Marital status:** Single  
**Military:** United States Air Force  
2/10/69-1/14/72;  
honorable discharge  
**serial number:** [REDACTED] b7C  
**Father:** [REDACTED]  
**Mother:** [REDACTED]  
**Employment:** Personnel Office, St.  
Luke's Hospital,  
6700 Delmar Avenue  
**Parents residence:** [REDACTED] Missouri  
**Telephone:** [REDACTED]



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/18/73

[redacted] telephone [redacted] was advised as to the identity of the interviewing Agent by a show of his credentials and was advised that he was being interviewed concerning a fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page. At this time [redacted] was interviewed at the apartment of [redacted] where he was visiting. [redacted] advised as follows:

[redacted] advised he is employed by the General Services Administration, Public Building Service in the custodial force at the NPRC, 9700 Page. He stated he is employed as a fill in man and that he works all over the building filling in for people who are not there.

On July 11, 1973, he was working ~~the~~ 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shift on the west end of the second floor near the guard's desk, near the main gate. He cleaned the Center Manager's Office, the Guard's Office, dispensary and did other general clean-up work. He stated that he noticed nothing unusual nor does he know of anyone including himself who would want to start the fire. He advised that the building is extremely hot due to the fact that the air-conditioning is shut off at 5:00 p.m.

b7C

He advised he has heard of a "tremendous amount of fires" during the day and he has had to clean up some of these small fires from time to time.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	[redacted]
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	6'
Weight:	155 pounds
Build:	Thin
Hair:	Light brown; mustache and beard

7/12/73

Overland, Missouri

SL 52-4856

SA [redacted]

dls

7/17/73

SL 52-4856

Eyes: Hazel  
Date of birth: [redacted]  
Place of birth: [redacted] Missouri  
Social Security Number: [redacted]  
Scars and marks: one inch scar below left eyebrow  
Military: U. S. Army, 10/1/69 - 4/4/72; honorable discharge  
Wife: [redacted] nee, [redacted]  
Children: Expecting first child approximately [redacted]

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/18/73

[redacted] telephone number [redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, the Mart Building, 12th and Spruce, St. Louis, Missouri. He advised as follows:

On July 11, 1973, he went to the sixth floor with [redacted] to go [redacted] in order that they could go to lunch from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. He stated the time they went to the sixth floor was between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. and they were on the sixth floor approximately fifteen minutes. At approximately 9:45 p.m., he also accompanied [redacted] to the sixth floor in order to get [redacted] in order to go on break. At this time [redacted] Custodial Force, was on the sixth floor also as was [redacted] who normally works on the first floor. After their break which ended at approximately 10:00 p.m., he went to the fourth floor to the air-conditioned Finance Office. He stated he never went back to the sixth floor after that.

b7C

At approximately 12:10 to 12:12 a.m., he was at the main entrance on the second floor waiting to leave work when he heard a guard and [redacted] say there was a fire. [redacted] stated that it was too smoky to go back up and at approximately that time, a man on a Honda came into the building and said there was a fire.

[redacted] stated he knows of no one smoking cigarettes and/or marijuana in the building. He does not know of anyone taking drugs or sleeping in the building. He stated he has smoked marijuana when he was overseas in the United States Army.

[redacted] stated he would take a polygraph test if requested.

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 /20  
by SA [redacted] dls Date dictated 7/17/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/18/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, was contacted at his place of employment, the Mart Building, 12th and Spruce, St. Louis, where he provided the following information:

After he left the sixth floor of the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) at approximately 10:30 to 10:45 p.m., he did not return to the sixth floor. He noticed nothing at all unusual and everything seemed normal. He stated there was a crew of possibly three people who were buffing the floors on the sixth floor after he left. [redacted] was in charge of this buffing crew, which consisted of [redacted] and two high school students, both males.

b7C

At 12:15 to 12:20 a.m., July 12, 1973, he was at the main entrance on the second floor when [redacted] told him about the fire. He knew nothing about it until then.

He stated he has seen some of the workers at the NPRC sleep on duty and has also seen some of them drinking alcoholic beverages while on duty. He advised that he has seen liquor bottles in some of the trash cans and also that he and some other people "took a couple of drinks" before Christmas, 1972, while in the building. He stated he has never seen any drugs or marijuana on the sixth floor or anywhere else in the building. He stated he has never smoked marijuana nor taken any drugs while in the building. He stated he has smoked marijuana while in the military, but that he has not smoked it in approximately one and one-half years. He advised he would be willing to take a polygraph test if requested.

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at St. Louis County, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 121

by SA [redacted] dls Date dictated 7/17/73 b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/26/73

Date of transcription

[redacted],  
Missouri, was interviewed at 1520 Market Street regarding the fire which occurred at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC) on July 12, 1973. [redacted] provided the following information:

He stated that he reported for work on July 11, 1973 at 4:00 p.m. as usual. Nearing the end of his shift at approximately 12:06 a.m., July 12, 1973, he saw smoke coming out of a vent in one of the elevators. At approximately 12:11 a.m., he told a guard by the name of [redacted] what he had seen. [redacted] added that he left work as usual at 12:30 a.m.

[redacted] stated that he has no idea who started the fire and knows nothing about the fire itself. However, he stated that the fire may have started from an electrical source. The lighting system has caused trouble in the past.

b7C

The following information was obtained through interview and observation:

Name:	[redacted]
Race:	Black
Sex:	Male
MPRC Badge No.:	[redacted]
Address:	[redacted] Missouri
Place of birth:	[redacted] Missouri
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Age:	[redacted]
Height:	6'1½"
Weight:	215 pounds
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Light brown
Social Security Account Number:	[redacted]

Interviewed on 7/25/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 - 122

by SA [redacted] dls Date dictated 7/26/73

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/18/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] telephone [redacted] was advised as to the identity of the interviewing Agent by a show of his credentials and informed that he was being interviewed concerning the fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page.

[redacted] advised as follows:

He is employed as a [redacted] employee with the General Services Administration, Public Building Service at the NPRC, 9700 Page, where he cleans the bathrooms on the second floor. He stated on July 11, 1973, he was working the 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shift. He is primarily assigned to the second floor, but he can be assigned to other floors if he finishes his work ahead of time, people are on leave, sick, etc.

He stated on July 11, 1973, he was on all of the floors of the Records Center including the sixth. He noticed nothing unusual and stated that at approximately midnight, almost everyone in the Records Center goes down to the first or second floors to sign out.

He stated there are usually only three people employed on the sixth floor:

[redacted] who cleans bathrooms  
[redacted] who cleans the office  
[redacted] areas on the west end of the building  
[redacted] who cleans the offices on the  
east side of the building.

He advised that to the best of his knowledge, the above three individuals do not go into the record section of the sixth floor unless they have to and stated he does not go into the record section unless he has to. He advised the record section is "extremely hot" as the air-conditioning in the building is shut off at 5:00 p.m. He advised he could think of no one who would want to start the fire and stated he himself did not.

7/12/73

St. Louis County, Missouri

SL 52-4856 123

SA [redacted]

ils

7/17/73

He stated that between twelve midnight and 12:30 a.m., he first noticed the fire, but that there were no alarms or sprinklers indicating that a fire was in progress. He advised that he noticed a white male, approximately 34 to 35 riding a little red Honda motorcycle, who at approximately midnight, told the guards at the Records Center where the fire was located. When the Fire Department arrived, they came to the front of the building instead of the back where the fire was located. This was approximately 12:30 a.m. He stated he observed the fire from outside the building and that when the water from the fire hoses hit the cardboard file cabinets, which were on fire, it knocked the file cabinets inward thus spreading the fire to the interior of the building.

He advised that there are always small fires at the Records Center, but that these have always been put out in time. He stated there was a fire in one of the paper towel disposals in one of the bathrooms he cleans, but that this was also put out in time.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained from observation and interview:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	5'8"
Weight:	140 pounds
Eyes:	Hazel
Hair:	Brown; beard and mustache
Tattoos:	[redacted]
characteristics:	wears glasses and/or contact licenses
date of birth:	[redacted]
place of birth:	[redacted] Missouri
Social Security Number:	[redacted]
Wife:	[redacted] nee [redacted]
Children:	expecting first child; [redacted]

b7C

SL 52-4856

Military:	United States Army; June 2, 1970 - January 28, 1972; honorab!e discharge
Arrests:	States has no arrests



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/18/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] telephone [redacted] was advised as to the identity of the interviewing Agent by a show of his credentials and informed that he was being interviewed concerning the fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page. SPECKMEYER advised as follows:

He advised that on July 11, 1973, he worked on the second floor exclusively. He stated he went on break from 9:45 - 10:00 p.m. to the fifth floor, west end, where a small lounge area is located with Coke and sandwich machines. He met [redacted] there at 9:45 p.m. He stated [redacted] cleans offices on the east end of the building on the sixth floor. After his break, he went back to work on the second floor and [redacted] stated he was going back to the sixth floor and turn on the lights.

At approximately 10:30 or 10:45 p.m., he went to the fourth floor, Financial Office, which is air-conditioned. This office is cleaned by [redacted] and he stated that he, [redacted] were there for approximately 30 minutes to take advantage of the air-conditioning.

At approximately 11:30 p.m., he and [redacted] went to the second floor to clean a rug. While they were doing this they talked to the guards, one of whom is named [redacted] (last name unknown).

He stated that he did go up to the sixth floor at approximately 7:00 to 7:15 p.m. to get [redacted] to go home for lunch at 7:30 p.m. He was on the sixth floor not after 7:15 p.m. and he would say this "positively".

He stated there are "alot of spots" in the building where employees sleep and/or smoke, but he can not say for sure if any of these are on the sixth floor. In his opinion, if anyone wanted to smoke, they would do it in the office where they could sit down in a comfortable chair and not in the file areas, which are extremely hot.

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at St. Louis County, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 /24  
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 7/17/73

He stated he left the NPRC at 12:30 a.m. on the "button" as they would not open the doors until 12:30 a.m.

He advised he heard about the fire approximately 12:10 a.m. from [redacted] and that when he left the building at 12:30 a.m., he first saw the fire at that time. He stated that it was approximately another ten or fifteen minutes after this before the firemen started putting any water on the fire.

When he first saw the fire, it was located on the south side of the sixth floor, approximately 50 feet east of the center of the building at the windows. At this time the flame was approximately ten feet wide and went from the floor to the ceiling. As he observed this, he could also observe the west side of the building and he did not observe any fire at that location.

b7C

He stated that the records are stuffed tightly into cardboard boxes which are placed on thin metal shelves on the sixth floor.

[redacted] stated that he smoked marijuana while in the army in Korea where he was stationed for one year. He stated he never smoked cigarettes or marijuana in the building and that he never took drugs or saw anyone else smoke or take drugs in the building. He stated he would be willing to take a polygraph test if needed.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date dictated 7/18/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] telephone [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent by a show of his credentials and advised that he wished to speak to him regarding the fire at the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue. [redacted] advised as follows:

He is employed as a [redacted] for the General Services Administration, Public Building Service at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page, where he is assigned to cleaning the bathrooms on the sixth floor. On July 11, 1973, he worked the 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shift in his usual position on the sixth floor. He advised that after 5:00 p.m., the air-conditioning in the building is shut off and it is extremely hot.

He stated that on the night of July 11, 1973, he did not notice anything or anyone unusual and when he left the sixth floor at approximately 12:05 a.m., he noticed nothing unusual. He advised that when he left, he believed that he was the only individual on that floor and he did not observe any smoke or fire. He stated he left the building at approximately 12:35 a.m. at which time he observed the fire and the fire engines. b7C

[redacted] stated that he formerly cleaned the bathrooms over the cafeteria and he has heard of fires in trash containers there and in other places in the building.

He stated that [redacted] also work on the sixth floor with him where they clean the offices.

The following descriptive data of [redacted] was obtained through observation and interview:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	6'2"

Interviewed on 7/13/73

Overland, Missouri

SL 52-4856 125

by SA [redacted] dls

7/17/73

SL 52-4856

Weight: 200 pounds  
Build: Medium  
Hair: Brown; shaggy; mustache and beard  
Eyes: Blue; wears glasses  
Date of birth: [REDACTED]  
Place of birth: [REDACTED], Missouri  
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]  
Characteristics: [REDACTED]  
Military: U. S. Army; 9/69 - 6/71  
Occupation: Currently a student at Webster College  
Wife: [REDACTED]  
Children: None  
Father: [REDACTED]  
Mother: [REDACTED]  
Parent's phone # [REDACTED] Missouri

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/18/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] telephone [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent by a show of his credentials and advised that he wished to speak to him regarding the fire at the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue. [redacted] advised as follows:

On July 11, 1973, he was working the 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shift at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) and worked the entire time on the sixth floor cleaning bathrooms, which is his normal job. He stated he left the sixth floor 12:05 a.m. with [redacted] (last name unknown), who are also [redacted]

[redacted] also works on the sixth floor and [redacted] (last name unknown) works on the second floor. He stated [redacted] had been on the elevator and had ridden to the sixth floor whereupon he entered the elevator, and rode down to the first floor. He stated as far as he knows, he was the last person on the sixth floor and he noticed "absolutely nothing" unusual on the sixth floor when he left. All of the lights were off and he did not observe or smell any smoke or fire, or anything unusual. He stated he then went to the first floor where he put his cleaning cart away and then went to the second floor to a little room near the guard's office where he read a magazine. He stated the time was then approximately 12:10 or 12:15 a.m., July 12, 1973. As he was reading the magazine, he thought he heard someone say that a car was burning in the parking lot, but attributed this to the fact he does not hear very well due to his being in a artillery unit in Vietnam. He then heard someone say there was a fire on the fourth or the sixth floor. This was approximately 12:20 a.m. He stated the Fire Department arrived by 12:25 a.m.

b7C

[redacted] stated there are definitely spots or places in the NPRC where individuals go to sleep and/or smoke cigarettes and/or marijuana. He stated that these areas are located on all floors in the file areas of the building. He stated that this type of activity is "definitely

7/17/73

Overland, Missouri

SL 52-4856-126

SA [redacted]

/dls

7/17/73

done on the sixth floor" but that he could not say for sure who was doing the smoking. He stated he could "give an educated guess", but would rather not say. He stated he has a pretty good idea who smokes marijuana in the building and stated he has seen people smoking marijuana, but did not want to implicate anyone. He stated that he himself formerly smoked marijuana, but does not smoke it at the present time. He stated he gave up smoking cigarettes one and one-half years ago. He stated that he was pretty sure most of the younger veterans employed in the building have smoked marijuana before and that they have probably smoked it in the building. He advised that he is "positive" no one was smoking either cigarettes or marijuana on the sixth floor on the night of the fire.

He stated that at least twice a week, people go to the file section on all of the floors to smoke marijuana or cigarettes. He stated that he either sees or hears of the same people doing this.

At this stage of the interview [redacted] was asked if he would take a polygraph test about the above statements and stated he would.

[redacted] then stated that he has smoked cigarettes and marijuana in the NPRC on the sixth floor and other floors. He stated that the younger people employed in the building "definitely" smoke all over the building, but that approximately one month ago, he heard that a friend of his, [redacted] was stopped by a Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent in the building regarding [redacted] bringing narcotics into the building. [redacted] stated that he "really became paranoid" over the smoking of marijuana in the building after this incident with [redacted]. He stated that the odds are [redacted] has smoked marijuana, but would not state whether he has ever seen him smoking in the building.

[redacted] stated that he can definitely smell marijuana when someone is smoking in the building, but that the individual doing the smoking "usually takes off" when someone approaches.

[redacted]

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/13/73

[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was contacted at his parent's residence at [redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted]. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and that the interview concerned the fire at the National Personnel Records Center - Military (NPRC-M) on July 12, 1973. He then furnished the following information:

b7C

He is currently employed as a [redacted] at NPRC-M and works the 4:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. shift. He began his employment at NPRC-M approximately June, 1972 and has been a [redacted] the entire period. His [redacted] He is normally assigned to the mop and wax crew but often works relief and therefore works everywhere in the building at different times.

During the evening of July 11, 1973, [redacted] was assigned to the mail room, restrooms, publication (or printing) room, and the motor pool. All these areas were on the first floor. He finished his work and left NPRC-M at 11:00 p.m., July 11, 1973, although he signed out as of 12:30 p.m., July 12, 1973. He stated when he left he did not notice anything unusual or suspicious.

Concerning the fire [redacted] stated he had no idea how the fire could have started or where it started. He first heard of it on the radio. He added a couple of months ago, there was a string of fires in the restrooms at NPRC-M. [redacted] feels these had to have been started by someone.

He stated he had heard on the radio that the fire possibly started on the sixth floor. He thinks that there is only a total of three employees working on the sixth floor during his shift. He added these three are custodians.

[redacted] stated if the fire was started by arson,

Interviewed on 7/12/73 at St. Ann, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 -127  
by SA [redacted] :vls Date dictated 7/12/73

b7C

SL 52-4856

he has no idea who could have been responsible for it. He has no reason to suspect anyone of starting the fire and knows of no NPROC-M employees who are disgruntled enough to cause this. He has heard of no rumors concerning a fire and has not noticed anything or anyone acting suspicious or unusual in the past weeks.

It is his opinion that it would be very difficult for an outsider to get into the building after 5:00 p.m. without help from the inside as the security is tight due to the utilization of guards and the doors being locked at 5:00 p.m.

[redacted] furnished the following information:

Name	[redacted]	
Sex	Male	
Race	White	
Address	[redacted]	
	[redacted]	Missouri
Telephone	[redacted]	
Previous address	[redacted]	Missouri
	Telephone:	[redacted]
Date of Birth	[redacted]	
Place of Birth	[redacted]	Missouri
Height	5' 10"	
Weight	150	
Hair	Long brown	
	Full beard	
Eyes	Hazel	
Social Security	[redacted]	
Account Number		
Education	Attending	[redacted]
	Community College	

b7C

[redacted] concluded by saying if he learns of any information concerning the fire, he will contact the St. Louis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/16/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed at the St. Louis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and that the interview concerned the fire at the National Personnel Records Center - Military (NPRC-M) on July 12, 1973. He then furnished the following information:

He was originally employed at NPRC-M for a couple of months in 1968 in a training program for messengers. There were no openings at this time and he was let go. He began his current employment at NPRC-M in October, 1970, in [redacted]. He has continued in [redacted] and is currently working in this field. [redacted] and he works the 4:00 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. shift.

b7C

In his job, [redacted] is assigned to the escalators on the first through sixth floors. He is responsible for the dusting and sweeping of both ends of the escalators. When he starts his shift, he begins on the sixth floor and works down to the first. He worked his normal shift on July 11, 1973, and began working on the sixth floor as usual.

[redacted] finished his work at about 12:00 Midnight and went to the locker room to clean up. At this time no one had mentioned anything about a fire. At about 12:15 A.M., July 12, 1973, he went to the second floor to sign out. While he was standing in line waiting to sign out, someone had mentioned that there was a fire upstairs. No mention of the size or exact location was made. [redacted] stated he assumed the fire was small and was under control. He thought no more about it, and signed out and left at 12:30 A.M.

[redacted] stated on Thursday afternoon, July 12, 1973, he first learned the extent of the fire. He added that on his shift he did not notice anything or anyone acting unusual, suspicious, or out of the ordinary. He had no idea of the cause or location of the origin of the fire.

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 -128  
by SA [redacted] :ck Date dictated 7/16/73

SL 52-4856

[ ] had not noticed anything or anyone suspicious for the past couple of months, and has not heard of any rumors of anyone who desired to start a fire at NPRC-M. He added he had no idea who could have caused the fire, if the cause was arson, and he suspects no one of doing this. He knows of no organizations or individuals who are militant against the Federal Government or the NPRC-M administration, who might be responsible for the fire.

[ ] stated it is his opinion that it would be very difficult for an outsider to get into the NPRC-M but that it would be easy for any NPRC-M employee to move around freely to any area.

[ ] then furnished the following descriptive information:

Name	[ ]	b7C
Race	Negro	
Sex	Male	
Address	[ ]	
	Missouri, telephone [ ]	
Date of Birth	[ ]	
Place of Birth	[ ] Missouri	
Height	5'11"	
Weight	225	
Build	Large	
Hair	Black	
Eyes	Brown	
Social Security Account Number	[ ]	
Military	None	
Arrests	[ ]	s
Education	Attending [ ]	
	[ ]	
	St. Louis Missouri	
Characteristics	[ ]	

[ ] concluded by saying he would contact the St. Louis Office of the FBI if he learns of information regarding the origin of the fire.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 20, 1973

[redacted] Federal Protective Service, Badge [redacted] advised he was on duty at the National Personnel Records Center - Military Branch on July 11, 1973, working the three to 11 shift. [redacted] post was the main guard desk, which is the only door through which access may be gained to the building after 5:00 P.M. Until 5:00 P.M. this door was guarded by FPO [redacted] was on building patrol, and [redacted] was also on outside duty. After 5:00 P.M. it is [redacted] job to see if all gates to property are locked on the 10 foot fence surrounding the building. [redacted] [redacted] patrolled the fourth, fifth, and sixth floors until about 10:35 P.M. He came down from patrol at 10:30 P.M. to relieve [redacted] for a break and advised all was normal at that time. Prior to that, [redacted] reported every hour, telephonically to indicate that everything was normal. [redacted] came in from outside patrol at 8:30 P.M. and patrolled floors one, two, and three inside the building.

b7C

[redacted] advised that during the entire shift nothing unusual occurred, and that there were no unauthorized persons in the building. He advised that his shift ended at 11:00 P.M. and there was no fire in the building, to his knowledge, when he left.

7/15/73

Overland, Missouri

SL 52-4856 129

Interviewed on

at

File #

SA DEAN R. SHUMWAY

:pdp

7/18/73

by

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 20, 1973

Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_

[redacted] General Services Administration (GSA) [redacted] advised that on July 11, 1973 the night of the fire at the National Personnel Records Center - Military Branch he worked the four to 12 shift assigned to patrol of floors four, five and six which includes all safes, maintenance and engineering rooms, and general patrol. [redacted] said he had access to all areas on those floors, and makes rounds between 5:00 P.M. and 10:30 P.M.

About 10:30 P.M. [redacted] said he came to the second or main floor straight from the sixth floor and relieved [redacted] at the main guard desk. There was no fire on six when he left that floor. [redacted] said he relieved [redacted] between 10:30 P.M. and 12:00 and is not permitted to leave the desk during that period of time. [redacted] said he noticed no unusual smells or activity, and nothing out of the ordinary at anytime during his shift.

b7C

He stated no unauthorized persons entered the building, and everyone in the building was signed in. [redacted] advised he was relieved at midnight by FPO [redacted] with nothing eventful happening to that point.

Interviewed on 7/15/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 -130  
SA [redacted] : pdp 7/18/73  
By \_\_\_\_\_ Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/19/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] telephone [redacted] was contacted and provided the following information:

[redacted] is a [redacted] in the Federal Protective Service security force assigned at the National Personnel Records Center. He works the midnight to 8:00 AM shift and his desk is located at the west end of the building.

At 10:15 AM on July 12, 1973, he was told by [redacted], who had been patrolling the parking area, that there was smoke coming from the sixth floor. [redacted] immediately contacted the Community Fire Department by the red phone, direct line on his desk.

[redacted] has no direct knowledge of any other events happening that morning since his desk was at the other end of the building. He is not aware of any threats or attempts to set fire to the building nor is he aware of any bad fire hazards on the sixth floor. He has heard that there have been two or three fires during the day which were thought to have been set intentionally.

b7C

[redacted] is a Negro male, six foot two, 190 pounds, date of birth [redacted]

Interviewed on 7/18/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-131  
by SA [redacted] CW Date dictated 7/19/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/26/73

[redacted] advised that she has been employed at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page, from 1967 to 1969, and from March, 1971 to the present time. She stated she is employed as an [redacted], regular Army records, enlistment eligibility activities office, located on the west end of the sixth floor near the escalators. She advised that she worked the 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. shift on July 11, 1973 and that during that time she noticed nothing unusual. She stated that there have been no fires on the sixth floor to her knowledge, but there was a mop fire in the women's restroom approximately one week prior to the fire. She stated there have been several small fires in restrooms in the past, but that she knows of no one who started these fires.

[redacted] stated that she has observed some of the young people at the records center who work through the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program walk into a restroom with a stack of papers and when they came out they had none. She stated she believes some of these young people are tearing up records and could possibly be responsible for starting some of the small fires.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through observation and interview:

b7C

Race:	White
Sex:	Female
Height:	5'5"
Weight:	140 lbs.
Hair:	Reddish-brown
Eyes:	Green (always wears glasses or contact lenses)

Date of Birth:	[redacted]
Place of Birth:	[redacted] Missouri
Social Security Account Number:	[redacted]

Interviewed on 7/20/73 at Woodson Terrace, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 - 132  
by SA [redacted] jet Date dictated 7/23/73

SL 52-4856

Husband:

[REDACTED]

Same address

Son:

[REDACTED]

Age

[REDACTED]

Arrests:

None

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/24/73

[redacted] tele-  
phone number [redacted] advised as follows:

He is employed in the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page, as a [redacted] in the Automated Equipment Division, Reserve Components Personnel Administration Center. He stated he will be employed at the NPRC for 11 years in September of 1973. He advised he started work on the fifth floor as a file clerk and has worked on the sixth floor in the past.

He stated he arrived at work at 11:45 p.m., July 11, 1973, to work his normal shift, 11:50 p.m. to 7:50 a.m. He stated when he arrived, part of the clean up crew was working on the second floor and that he signed in and went directly to the fourth floor where he works. He noticed no strange faces or anything unusual.

b7C

At approximately 12:15 a.m., July 12, 1973, he thought he heard someone say a computer machine was burning and he smelled smoke. He and [redacted] went to the door of the computer room and through the window could see very thick smoke in the corridors.

At approximately 12:20, [redacted] called the guards and advised them of this smoke. [redacted] also sent the military personnel and the women who work in the computer room downstairs. At this time, [redacted] were still in the computer room. They went to the other door of the computer room and through the window observed the file area on the fourth floor. At this time, there was "some smoke", but not very much. They then went back to the computer room and "powered down" all computer equipment.

At approximately 12:25 to 12:35 a.m. three firemen came to the fourth floor and two were sent to check the rest rooms, but reported no fire. The fireman in charge asked [redacted] to call the guards' desk in order to get the escalators working, so more firemen could come up to the fourth floor.

Interviewed on 7/20/73

Woodson Terrace, Missouri

SL 52-4856 -133

by SA [redacted] /jet

7/23/73



SL 52-4856

By this time, all of the computer equipment was shut down. [redacted] then walked downstairs to the second floor and they heard someone yell to evacuate the building. [redacted] left the building, walked around to the back of it, and there observed the fire. At this time, it was centrally located on the sixth floor in the back, behind one of the big exhaust fans. The flames had broken the glass and were lapping over the roof. The flames at this time were approximately 40-50 feet wide. He stated that almost immediately the flames started jumping sideways with great repetity.

He stated he left at approximately 2:30 a.m. and at that time the entire sixth floor was not engulfed in flames.

[redacted] stated that from his experience working in the records section, he feels the records section could not burn or spread that quickly due to the fact the records are tightly packed into very heavy cardboard boxes. He stated that burning these records would be like trying to burn a rolled up newspaper. He feels something must have been used to start the fire as it spread so quickly. He stated that cleaning fluid could have been used and the custodial force has access to it. He believes the cleaning fluid is stored on the first floor. He stated he does not feel gasoline or any flammable substance could have been brought into the building due to the security procedures. b7C

He advised he has never heard anyone talk about setting fires, although he feels several of the young people working at the records center in the "youth programs" may have started several small fires in the past. He stated that approximately five years ago there were not even any "dirty words" written on the bathroom walls, but since the youth programs there have been troubles in the building. He stated he is the [redacted] [redacted] and that he comes in contact with these problems frequently.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through observation and interview:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	5'11"
Build:	Heavy
Weight:	325 lbs.

SL 52-4856

Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Hazel-green  
(always wears glasses)

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]  
Place of Birth: [REDACTED] Missouri

Social Security

Account Number: [REDACTED]

Scars and Marks: [REDACTED]

Military Service: None

Wife: [REDACTED]

Employment: Same address  
National Personnel  
Records Center

Son: [REDACTED]

Arrests: [REDACTED]

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS

7/30/73

7/12-30/73

## TITLE OF CASE

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL  
PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY (NPRC-M)  
7/12/73

SA 

CHARACTER OF CASE

pdp

DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON

## REFERENCES:

SL tel to Bureau, 7/12/73;  
SL airtel to Bureau, 7/19/73.

- P -

## ENCLOSURES:

Enclosed for the Bureau are 53 photographs  
of the fire and its aftermath at the NPRC-M,  
St. Louis, Mo.

ADMINISTRATIVE: The National Bureau of Standards (NBS) has  
conducted an investigation at the fire scene  
from the standpoint of safety and prevention of future such  
fires, but indicates no interest in the criminal aspects  
of this matter. The NBS is very interested in receiving  
a copy of FBI photographs taken at the scene and a summary  
of the FBI's investigation as to physical evidence. A copy  
of the report is, therefore, not being disseminated to that

b7C

ACCOMP.

S CLAIMED

☒ NONE

ACQUITTALS

X 100

X 100

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACE BELOW

- 4 - Bureau (Enc. - 53)  
1 - 112th MI, Ft. Leonard Wood  
1 - GSA Public Building Service, SL  
1 - National Archives and Records  
Service, SL  
1 - Federal Protective Service, SL  
2 - St. Louis (52-4856)

- 134

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Dissemination



SL 52-4856

agency but it will be furnished an LHM summary under separate cover, with photographs enclosed.

Two additional copies of the report are being furnished the Bureau for any dissemination to interested agencies it deems appropriate on a headquarters level.

Copies of photographs being disseminated to appropriate local agencies receiving a copy of this report also under separate cover.

LEADS:

ST. LOUIS:

AT ST. LOUIS, MO.:

1. Will follow with demolition contractor for additional developments as to cause of fire.
2. Will continue to locate and interview employees who have been on annual leave or otherwise absent since the fire.
3. Will follow with National Archives and Records Service as to rehabilitation of the record keeping facility, and as to when restoration of full access to records may be expected.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - 112th Military Intelligence, Fort Leonard Wood,  
Missouri  
1 - GSA Public Building Service, St. Louis  
1 - National Archives and Records Service, St. Louis  
1 - Federal Protective Service, St. Louis

Report of:  
Date:

SA [REDACTED]  
July 30, 1973

Office: ST. LOUIS

b7C

Field Office File #:

SL 52-4856

Bureau File #:

Title:

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL  
RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M)  
JULY 12, 1973

Character:

DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - POSSIBLE ARSON

Synopsis:

Fire discovered sixth floor center section, National Personnel Records Center - Military Branch, shortly after midnight 7/12/73 by Federal Protective Service (FPS) and custodial personnel. Interviews of all FPS, custodial, files, and computer personnel in building at time of fire as well as extensive examination of site of original fire failed to disclose any evidence of arson. St. Louis conducting additional interviews and following with demolition contractor for any further developments as to cause of fire.

- P -

SL 52-4856

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SL 52-4856

DETAILS:

I. EXAMINATION OF SIXTH FLOOR FIRE SCENE

SL 52-4856

11. INTERVIEWS OF CUSTODIAL EMPLOYEES



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 7/18/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, was contacted by SA [redacted] at his parents residence concerning the fire, which occurred at the National Personnel Records Center-Military (NPRC-M) on the evening of July 11, 1973, and furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised he has been employed at the record center since June, 1972, as a [redacted]. His normal working hours are 4:00 to 12:00 A.M., and his areas of responsibility at the center are the fourth and fifth floors.

On the evening of July 11, 1973, [redacted] worked entirely on the fourth and fifth floor and did not have occasion to go to the sixth floor. [redacted] said he knew of no one he had come in contact with at the record center who would be desirous and capable of destroying the building. He said he first became aware of the fire at approximately 12:15 A.M., when he went to the second floor of the building to sign out for the evening. At that time his [redacted] told him there was a fire in the building. [redacted] then decided to go take a look at the fire and left the second floor via the stairwell, and climbed to the sixth floor. This particular stairwell, [redacted] said, was the one nearest the main entrance desk on the west end of the building. Upon arriving on the sixth floor, [redacted] observed smoke coming out of the sixth floor doors and seemingly flowing into a nearby elevator shaft. [redacted] opened a door in the hallway which leads to the file section on the sixth floor in the southwest corner of the building. He walked over to the south side of the building where the windows are located and said that the west one-third of the building on the sixth floor in the file section was not on fire and was relatively clear of smoke. However, as he looked toward the east end of the building and began walking in this direction, he ran into a solid wall of heavy dense, grayish-black smoke. He estimated that this covered the other two-thirds of the floor. At that time he left the file area and entered into the hallway; and tried to close a few doors that were opened to the file section. b7C

Interviewed on 7/17/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856

SA [redacted]:ck Date dictated 7/18/73

SL 52-4856

He then left the sixth floor via the stairway he had come up and proceeded to the second floor, where he exited the building. He stayed outside the building only approximately five minutes and left for his residence. [ ] recalled that on the sixth floor some lights were on but he could not tell if the exhaust fans were on or off. [ ] emphasized on the west one-third of the sixth floor he did not observe any flames and the area was relatively clear of smoke. He said on his travels to and from the sixth floor he did not observe anyone else.

[ ] further stated that prior to being informed that a fire had occurred in the building at 12:15 A.M. he had not observed any smoke.

b7C

The following information was obtained from observation and interview:

Name	[ ]
Residence	[ ]
Parents Residence	[ ]
Race	Missouri
Sex	White
Date of Birth	Male
Marital Status	[ ]
Military	Single
Occupation	Veteran - U.S. Coast Guard
	Student - [ ] Junior College,
	majoring in general courses
Height	6 feet
Weight	180
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Telephone Number	[ ]

[ ] said he had been notified to report for work at the New Federal Building in St. Louis on the 4:00 to 12:00 shift beginning July 17, 1973.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/18/73

**WILLIAM BUDLEY ELMORE, Jr.**, Twin Island Lakes, Route 2, St. Charles County, Missouri, no telephone, was interviewed at the apartment of **FREDERICK SPECIMYER**, 10560 Cinnamon, where he was visiting. **ELMORE** was advised as to the identity of the interviewing Agent by a show of his credentials and was advised that he was being interviewed concerning a fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page. **ELMORE** advised as follows:

He advised he is employed by the General Services Administration, Public Building Service, Custodial Force at the NPRC, 9700 Page. He advised he cleans one-half of the offices on the northeast corner of the sixth floor and that those duties do not require him to go into the records section. On July 11, 1973, he was working the 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shift. He stated he left the sixth floor at approximately 10:30 to 10:45 p.m. to go to the fourth floor, Finance Section Office, which is air-conditioned. He stated that the air-conditioning in the building is shut off after 5:00 p.m. and it is "extremely hot". When he left the sixth floor, he noticed nothing unusual and stated he knows of no one who would want to start a fire at the Records Center nor did he himself.

He stated he found out about the fire when he was on the second floor waiting to leave work. He stated there were no alarms sounded and the building was not evacuated of the employees, who had to wait inside the building to sign out at 12:30 a.m.

He advised that on July 11, 1973, his supervisor, **TWISKEY BOWEN**, had informed him that there had been two fires within the last week in the building and that **BOWEN** talked to him about fire prevention.

The following description of **ELMORE** was obtained through observation and interview:

Race: White

7/18/73

St. Louis County, Missouri

SL 53-4856

SA CARL A. SCHULTZ/dls

7/17/73

2  
EL 52-4856

Sex:	Male
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	160 pounds
Hair:	Light brown; mustache and beard
Eyes:	Blue
date of birth:	February 8, 1948
place of birth:	St. Louis, Missouri
Social Security Number:	490-54-9880
Marital status:	Single
Military:	United States Air Force 2/10/69-1/14/72; honorable discharge
serial number:	68096231
Father:	WILLIAM D. ELMORE, Sr.
Mother:	ALICE ELMORE
Employment:	Personnel Office, St. Luke's Hospital, 6700 Delmar Avenue
Parents residence:	10411 Driver Overland, Missouri
Telephone:	423-1507

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 17, 1973

1

[redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent as well as the fact that he was being interviewed concerning a possible federal violation in connection with destruction of Government property.

[redacted] advised that he has been working as a [redacted] at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC) for approximately 15 years since the building was opened. He added that he had 32 years of Government service. He stated that on July 11, 1973, he arrived at work at approximately 3:45 P.M. at which time he went to work on the second floor of the building. He worked on the second floor until his lunch break at 7:30 P.M. after which he went to work on the sixth floor. To the best of his recollection he worked on the sixth floor from approximately 8:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. at which time he returned to the first floor where he remained until approximately 12:25 A.M., July 12, 1973. At this time he heard several individuals speaking of a fire upstairs and he exited through the east door. While outside the building he was contacted by his [redacted] who asked him to stay for awhile in case there was anything that could be done to help. He remained until approximately 2:30 A.M. and observed the fire on the sixth floor in the south side of the building. He stated that during the course of the evening nothing unusual had occurred nor had he noticed any individuals who were unfamiliar to him or who appeared as though they did not belong at MPRC.

b7C

He is described as follows:

Name

Address

Telephone

Race

Sex

Date of birth

Negro

Male

Missouri

7/12/73

St. Louis, Missouri

SL 52-4856

SA [redacted]

:pdp

7/16/73

2  
SL 52-4856

Height	5'8"
Weight	160
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Marital status	Married
Military service	U. S. Army, 1941 through 1944
Social Security Number	<div data-bbox="898 746 1154 798"></div>

b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/23/73

[redacted] St. Louis, Missouri, was informed of the identity of the interviewing Agent as well as the fact that he was being interviewed concerning a possible Federal violation in connection with the Destruction of Government Property. [redacted] was advised that he was being reinterviewed in efforts to determine the exact times of his whereabouts on the evening of July 11, 1973. [redacted] stated that he arrived at work at approximately 3:45 p.m. and went to work on the second floor at the Military Personnel Record Center. He worked on the second floor in the corridor until his lunch break at 7:30 p.m. Following his lunch break he went up to the sixth floor where he worked from approximately 8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. He then went down to the first floor where he worked for an additional two hours until shortly after midnight at which time he changed clothes and prepared to sign out and go home. He recalls that he first heard of a fire in the building at approximately 12:25 a.m., when he was on the first floor. [redacted] stated that he is considerably older than the majority of the employees at Military Personnel Record Center and does not associate with his fellow employees. He, therefore, could not recall the names of any of the other individuals who worked on the sixth floor with him.

b7C

7/17/73

St. Louis, Missouri

SL 52-4856

SA [redacted]

:vls

7/20/73

SL 52-4856

III. INTERVIEWS OF FILES AND COMPUTER PERSONNEL



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/13/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] stated that he is a summer-time employee at the Records Center and is employed as a [redacted]. He is a student at the University of Missouri in Columbia, majoring in Business Administration and will be a sophomore when he returns to school in September, 1973.

[redacted] job consists of checking files and attaching a label to have the records computerized. [redacted] is [redacted] works on the second floor of the records center building, and he works the evening shift, 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. [redacted] advised that he did work on July 11, 1973.

b7C

[redacted] advised that he remained on the second floor from approximately 4:05 p.m. through 12:15 a.m. except for the period 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. when he went to the fifth floor snack bar for lunch. [redacted] stated that he saw no new employees or any suspicious looking people and there were no unusual occurrences on the evening, July 11, 1973.

[redacted] advised that when he went to the fifth floor on July 11, 1973 at 8:00 p.m., he did not smell smoke and did not see any fire. He advised that the first time he knew there was a fire was approximately 12:30 a.m. when he was leaving the building to go home.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Race:	Caucasian
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	160 pounds
Hair:	Brown
Social Security #:	[redacted]

7/12/73

St. Louis, Missouri

SL 52-3856

SA [redacted] dls

7/13/73

2

SL 52-3856

Father:

[Redacted]

Mother:

[Redacted]

Missouri

Employment:

National Personnel Records  
Center, GSA Record Center;  
5/14/73 through present  
(summer employment)

b7C

Employee Identification Number:

[Redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

7/13/73

[redacted] St. Louis, MO. [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the nature of the interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] advised that he is employed by the National Archives and Records Center as a [redacted] [redacted] 1973 on May 14, 1973. He is a part-time or summer [redacted] His [redacted] and he is [redacted] to the evening shift, 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM. [redacted] stated that he did work on the night of July 11, 1973, on the first floor of the records center building. At no time did he go to any other floors of this building and left the building at only one time, 8:00 to 8:30 PM for lunch, until 12:10 PM when he went to the second floor to obtain his workbox.

[redacted] advised that he noted nothing unusual and saw no new employees in or around the records center on the night of July 11, 1973. He advised that he was not aware of any left-wing or militant-type individuals [redacted] by the records center. b7C

[redacted] advised that prior to leaving, at [redacted] 12:10 PM, he was [redacted] by another clerk to the second floor of this building where he usually worked, to pick up his workbox and return it to the first floor. [redacted] advised that when he was leaving the second floor the hall seemed empty and that an elevator which had come down from a floor above the second floor stopped on this floor and when the doors opened it was filled with smoke. [redacted] advised that he did not know that there was a fire until the time he was leaving the area at [redacted] 12:35 PM.

The following is a description of [redacted]

Race: Caucasian  
Sex: Male

7/13/73

St. Louis, Missouri

SL 82-4826

SA [redacted]

on

7/13/73

<sup>2</sup>  
SL 52-4856

b7C

Date of birth:	[REDACTED]
Height:	5'7"
Weight:	153
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Blue
Social security account number:	[REDACTED]
Education:	Student, St. Louis University, majoring in psychology
Automobile:	1973 Buick Century, white over green. 1974 Missouri license [REDACTED]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 13, 1973

1

[redacted]  
Missouri, telephone [redacted] Military  
Personnel Records Center (MPRC), 9700 Page, Overland,  
Missouri, advised as follows concerning his knowledge  
of the fire that occurred on July 12, 1973, at MPRC:

[redacted] advised that he is a summer employee  
along with approximately 25-30 other young people  
under the supervision of [redacted] (phonetic) on a  
special project for the Civil Service Commission. [redacted]  
advised that he checked in at 3:30 P.M., July 11, 1973,  
and signed out at 12:30 A.M., July 12, 1973.

[redacted] advised that he works on the second floor  
and only leaves it to go to lunch on the fifth floor.

[redacted] advised that at approximately 12:10 A.M.  
he left the first floor to return files that he had  
been working on and approximately 12:20 A.M. returned  
to the second floor to sign out. [redacted] advised on his  
return to the second floor he could smell smoke on the  
stairs. He stated that at 12:10 A.M. when he was on the  
stairway he did not smell smoke.

[redacted] advised that he does not know of anyone  
who would have started the fire at MPRC and has no knowledge  
as to how it was started.

The following is a description of [redacted]

Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date, place of birth	[redacted] Missouri
Height	5'8"
Weight	130-140
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Address	[redacted] Missouri

7/12/73

[redacted] Missouri

SL 52-4856

SA  
SA

JMC:pdg

7/13/73

2  
BL 52-4856

Occupation  
Automobile

Student, Oklahoma University,  
Norman, Oklahoma  
1971 Rambler Ambassador  
Missouri license

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7-19-73

1

[redacted] of [redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone [redacted] was interviewed  
at his residence and supplied the following information:

[redacted] advised he is presently employed  
at the Army Publications Center located at 1655 Woodson  
Road, St. Louis, Missouri which is located directly  
behind the Military Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard.  
[redacted] stated that he has been employed at the  
Publications Center for approximately three years, and  
describes his work as that of a [redacted]

[redacted] further advised that on July 11, 1973  
he was performing a 3:15 P.M. to 11:45 P.M. shift. At  
approximately 12:15 A.M. that evening, [redacted] advised  
that while driving from the Publications Center passing the  
Records Center in an attempt to exit on Page Boulevard,  
he observed smoke emanating from the top floor of the  
Records Center. [redacted] stated that in an attempt  
to get a closer look to see where the smoke was coming  
from he drove his car to a position facing the south side  
of the building. At that time at the southeast corner  
of the building, [redacted] stated he observed smoke  
and approximately five different flames on the sixth floor  
of the Records Center. The flames were as [redacted]  
described rising to approximately two feet above the  
window ledge on the sixth floor and were separated approximately  
ten feet apart. Furthermore, [redacted] stated the  
flames which he saw covered an area from the center  
of the building to the southeast corner of the building.

b7C

[redacted] advised that when he first observed  
the flames they appeared to have been going "pretty well"  
by the time he observed them. [redacted] stated after  
noting the seriousness of the fire, he immediately  
proceeded to the west side of the building to alert the  
guard who was stationed there at which time he was met  
in front of the building by that same guard who advised  
he was aware of the fire.

7-12-73

St. Louis, Missouri

SL 53-4836

SA [redacted]

so

7-18-73

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

7/17/73

[redacted] of [redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] was  
interviewed and supplied the following information:

[redacted] advised she has been an employee  
of the record center located at 3700 East Blvd., Overland,  
Missouri since June 11, 1973. [redacted] states her  
principal duties are that of a file clerk, and she  
primarily works on the second floor of the building.

[redacted] advised that on July 11, 1973, she performed  
a 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM shift. To the best of her knowledge  
she stated that she observed nothing out of the ordinary  
take place during the course of the evening. She advised  
for the major portion of the evening she was on the second  
floor where she was working. [redacted] states that at  
approximately 12:30 AM while passing to the west side  
of the building on the second floor to sign out she smelled  
smoke. She was not sure where the smoke was emanating  
from. [redacted] states she signed out as she usually  
does and left then for home without any indication of  
the seriousness of the fire that was taking place at the  
center.

b7C

[redacted] further advised she had no idea how  
the fire could have started, and could think of no  
individuals whom she feels could be responsible for  
starting a fire at the record center.

7/12/73

Mohaville, Missouri

SL 82-4846

SA [redacted]

cv

7/18/73



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

7/17/73

[redacted] telephone number [redacted] was interviewed and furnished the following information:

[redacted] is employed as a [redacted] at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, where she works the 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM shift. She is temporarily assigned to a special project involving the relabeling of files on the second floor and the correction of errors noticed by clerks working there, errors in the name or service numbers. When these errors are noticed, the files are taken down to the first floor where she works and where she corrects them. [redacted] is normally employed as a file clerk, also on the first floor. The special project involves four clerks, including herself and three supervisors working on the first floor and 17 clerks and one supervisor working on the second floor in the files.

b7C

During the evening of July 11, 1973, work went as usual and she was not aware that a fire had broken out until she left the building at 12:30 AM and saw a fire truck outside. She saw the firemen talking to the guards and claimed that the firemen had not yet started to spray water into the building. She did not notice the fire herself although she did not look for it.

[redacted] had not been on the sixth floor at all that evening and advised that none of the clerks working on this project would have any reason to go on that floor. She has not heard any talk about anyone planning to set fire to the building and has no idea as to what might have been the cause of the fire.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:

Race:

[redacted]  
Negro

7/16/73

Northwoods, Missouri

SL 32-4636

SA [redacted]

ow

7/17/73

<sup>2</sup>  
H. 52-4856

Sex:  
Height:  
Weight:  
Date of birth:

Female  
5'6"  
121

b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/16/73

1

[redacted] Missouri, telephone [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] stated that she is employed by the U.S. ARMY, Office of the Adjutant General as a [redacted]. She works in the Publications Center located at 1686 Woodson Road. [redacted] advised that she works from 11:15 PM through 7:45 AM and that she did work on the night of July 11 through 12, 1973.

[redacted] advised that she and a co-worker, [redacted] heard about the fire from a [redacted] who works the second shift. [redacted] She and [redacted] drove to the record center building by automobile and parked on the east parking lot. [redacted] stated that when she saw the fire it appeared to her to be in three locations on the sixth floor. She advised that on their way to the record center from their office [redacted] there were no unusual vehicles noticed and neither noticed any unusual occurrences. She advised that she is not familiar with very many people working at the record center.

b7C

[redacted] is described as follows:

Race:	Negro
Sex:	Female
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Place of birth:	[redacted] Illinois
Social security account number:	[redacted]
Automobile:	1963 Plymouth Valiant, red convertible with white top. 1973 Missouri license [redacted]

7/13/73

St. Louis City, Mo.

SL 82-4286

SA [redacted]

cv

7/13/73

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 7/18/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, was contacted by SA [redacted] at his residence, concerning the fire that occurred at the National Personnel Records Center-Military (NPRC-M) on July 11, 1973, and STEWART furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised that he has been employed as a GS-4 temporary [redacted] at the record center since October, 1971, and in recent weeks has been working on special projects.

[redacted] said that his work is primarily located on the first and second floors of the record center but he had previously worked on the sixth floor. During the evening of July 11, 1973, b7C

[redacted] worked entirely on the first and second floors and only left these floors to proceed to the fifth floor snack bar at approximately 8:00 P.M. After a short break he returned again to his work area on the first and second floor.

[redacted] advised he knew of no one that he had come in contact with at the center who would be desirous or capable of burning the record center, and on the evening of July 11, 1973, he said he noticed nothing out of the ordinary. [redacted] first became aware of the fire at approximately 12:25 A.M., July 12, 1973, when he went to the first floor of the record center to sign out for the evening. At that time he saw fire trucks and firemen arriving at the building. He went outside, and observed flames coming from the southeast corner of the building near the windows. [redacted] said at that time, approximately 12:35 A.M., the flames were confined to the southeast corner area. At approximately 12:40 A.M. [redacted] left the center and returned to his residence. The following information was obtained from interview and observation:

Name  
Race  
Sex  
Date of Birth  
Marital Status  
Height  
Weight

[redacted]  
Negro  
Male

[redacted]  
Married  
5'9"  
155

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856

by SA [redacted] :ck Date dictated 7/18/73

2

SL 52-4856

Residence

[REDACTED]

Missouri

b7C

Telephone Number

[REDACTED]

SL 52-4856

IV. INTERVIEWS OF GUARDS AND FEDERAL PROTECTIVE  
SERVICE OFFICERS ON DUTY JULY 11 AND JULY 12, 1973

1  
BL 52-4856  
BAJ:SS

On July 18, 1973, [redacted]  
[redacted] telephone [redacted] St. Louis,  
was contacted by SA [redacted]  
advised he is a Federal Protective Service [redacted]  
[redacted] at the Adjutant General Publications Center,  
1655 Woodson Road, Overland, where he works 12 midnight  
to 8 A.M. On the morning of July 12, 1973 he was called  
by his [redacted] who was  
at the National Personnel Records Center. This was  
at about 12:30 A.M. [redacted] told him to lock up the  
publications center and assist in traffic control at the  
main gate of the Records Center since there was a  
fire there. It was 12:40 A.M. before he got outside.  
All he could see of the fire was some smoke from the  
6th floor windows on the south side of the building. He  
helped direct traffic for one hour and then returned to  
the publications building. He could provide no  
further information of value,

[redacted] is described as a Negro male, 5'8",  
180 pounds, date of birth [redacted]

b7C

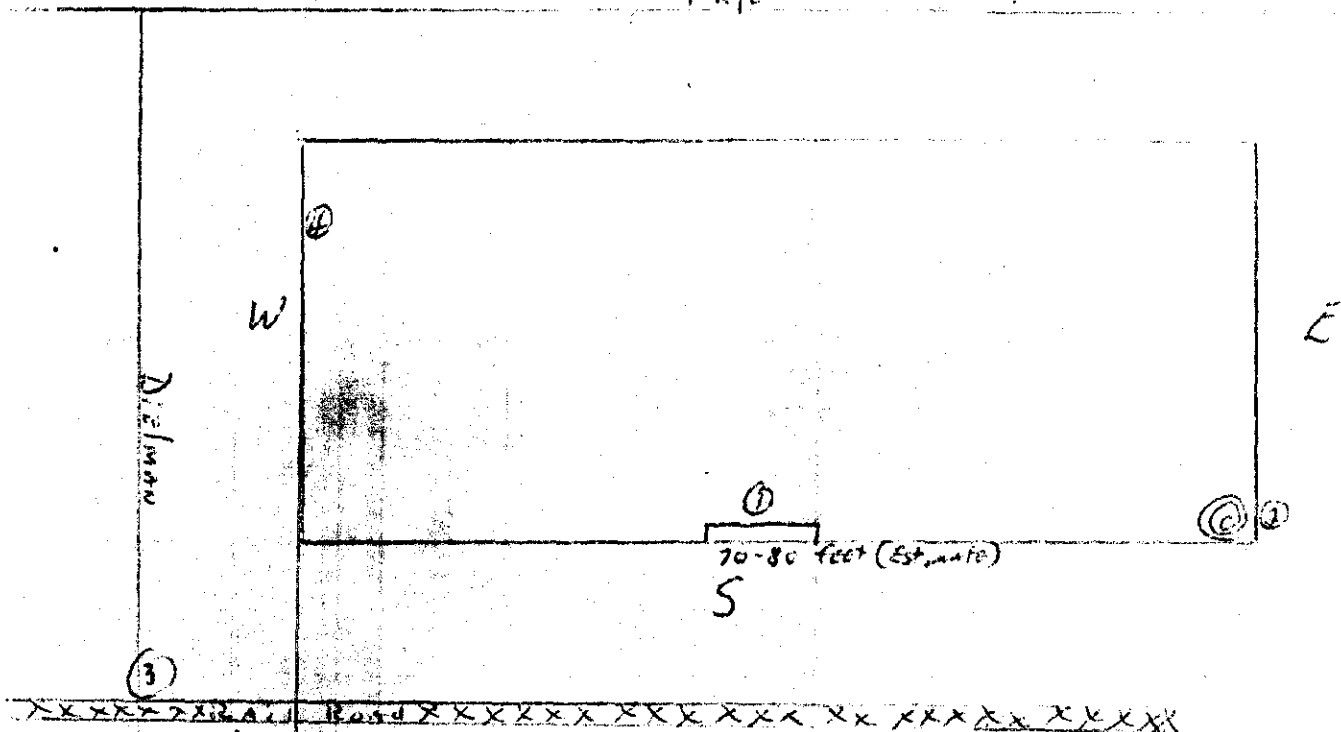
SL 52-4856

V. MISCELLANEOUS INTERVIEWS



7/13/73

Page



12:12 AM  
Estimate

Carter  
Cabrera

b7C

12:07 AM  
time card

- ① Location of fire on 6<sup>th</sup> floor when noticed by  at approximately 12:12 AM
- ② Smoke pouring from corner - 6<sup>th</sup> floor
- ③ Location when  noticed fire
- ④ Requested fire to guard at this point

SL 52-4856

SL 52-4856

VI. DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription July 23, 1973

1

Photographs of the National Personnel Records Center - Military Branch, 9700 Page, were taken by SAs [redacted] utilizing 35 millimeter cameras.

They are identified as follows:

Group A taken during the morning of July 12, 1973, during the fire:

1. Northeast corner
2. East side
3. East side
4. Southeast corner
5. East side
6. East side
7. East side
8. Southeast corner
9. South side
10. Southwest corner
11. Northeast corner

Group B taken in late morning July 12, 1973, during the fire:

b7C

12 through 21 are aerial photographs.

Group C taken July 13, 1973:

22. Southwest corner
23. Southeast corner
24. East side
- 25 through 30 were taken about 5:30 P.M. from a snorkel fire truck and show east side of sixth floor.

Group D aerial photographs taken at about 9:30 A.M. July 18, 1973, showing damage to the roof:

31. South side
32. South side
33. Looking southeast

Interviewed on 7/12, 13, 18/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856  
by SA [redacted] JMD: pdp Date dictated 7/20/73

2  
SL 52-4856

- 34. East side
- 35. South side
- 36. South side
- 37. Looking east

Group E fire damage on the sixth floor, taken  
July 18, 1973:

- 38. Midway in south corridor looking west
- 39. Midway in south corridor looking east
- 40. Caved in roof and bent shelves with charred records south side center
- 41. Office section north side
- 42. File shelves, bending toward south side of building taken from north side
- 43. Filing shelves looking south toward caved in area of roof
- 44. Filing shelves looking toward caved in roof
- 45. Records folder in south corridor
- 46. Stairwell on south side
- 47. Filing cabinets on south east side
- 48. " " " " " "
- 49. Filing cabinets looking north from south side
- 50. Filing cabinets taken from cave-in area of roof
- 51. Filing shelves north central area
- 52. Filing shelves and roof
- 53. Filing shelves, charred paper and roof.

Post Office Box 7251  
St. Louis, Missouri 63177  
July 31, 1973

b7C

[REDACTED]  
General Services Administration  
1500 East Bannister Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64131

Re: Major Fire, National Personnel  
Records Center - Military (NPRC-M),  
July 12, 1973  
Destruction of Government Property,  
Possible Arson

Dear [REDACTED]

Enclosed herewith is a copy of an investigative report dated July 30, 1973, at St. Louis concerning the fire at the National Personnel Records Center - Military located at 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, which fire occurred on July 12, 1973.

Photographs of the Records Center are being prepared and will be forwarded to you when they are received by this office.

I trust that the enclosed report will be of some assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

*[Signature]*  
ROBERT G. KUNKEL  
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure 1

- 1- Addressee (Enc. 1)
- 1- St. Louis (52-4856)

CJD:lhc  
(2)

SEARCHED

8/1/73

A I R T E L

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) (P)

MAJOR FIRE -  
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS  
CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M), 7/14/73,  
DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT  
PROPERTY - POSSIBLE ARSON

OO: ST. LOUIS

For information of Bureau, [redacted]  
[redacted] National Personnel Records Center (Military Branch), advised that considerable progress is being made toward rehabilitation of the Records Center. Records are gradually becoming accessible for recovery, but [redacted] indicated that it will be sometime before operations at the Center permit general access to records. Water removal, fogging and demolition operations continue, but a considerable portion of the 50-million gallons of water poured into the building remains.

b7C

In addition, J. S. ALBERICI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, which is the prime demolition contractor, has forbidden access to that portion of each of the five lower floors directly beneath demolition operations. This amounts to the rough equivalent of one third the length of the building on each floor. This requirement stems from fear of dropping huge chunks of concrete from the roof structure weighing in the neighborhood of ten tons each. [redacted] reports that if dropped, the concrete would go to the basement. Additionally, if the boom of the huge crane used to do this work were to be pulled down or broken, it is feared the boom would slice through several of the floors.

2 - Bureau (AM)  
2 - St. Louis  
DRS:gmf (4)

SEARCHED

Kpp

Handwritten signature and initials

[ ] also indicated that negotiations are currently being conducted regarding the future location of the United States Army Reserve Control Group which has occupied the fourth floor. While [ ] desires to remain in the building, General Services Administration wants them to seek headquarters elsewhere, due primarily to space considerations.

The sixth floor will not be rebuilt, and if the Army returns to the fourth floor, space in the building will be at an extreme premium.

[ ] said that "dickering" over space requirements and allocations is presently being conducted. He could offer no advice as to when or whether tenant activity such as the Civil Service Commission, Social Security Administration, National Research Agency, Veterans Administration and the FBI would be afforded space, or if so, how much. b7C

[ ] estimated it would be several weeks before any space would be available due to safety factors from ceilings which continue to fall, and from tile floors which are lifting due to water damage. Repair efforts alone are expected to interfere with and probably delay access to any space in the building.

A visual inspection of FBI Office space on 7/30/73 indicates it is generally in good condition but the floor is under water and much of the tile floor is beginning to lift. The ceiling appears water or moisture saturated and appears to be tenuous at best.

[ ] also suggested an alternate source of military record information as the Automatic Data Processing Center of the Veterans Administration, Austin, Texas. [ ] indicated that information filed there will consist of little more than name, rank, serial number, and possibly the type of discharge. It will not indicate the period of service, medical or performance data, and will not reflect records of court-martial. This information being offered

SL 52-4856

for whatever instruction the Bureau desires to afford all field offices as to the availability of the above data.

Bureau will be periodically advised of the Records Center status as developments occur.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7-19-73

[redacted] of [redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone [redacted] was interviewed  
at his residence and supplied the following information:

[redacted] advised he is presently employed  
at the Army Publications Center located at 1655 Woodson  
Road, St. Louis, Missouri which is located directly  
behind the Military Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard.  
[redacted] stated that he has been employed at the  
Publications Center for approximately three years, and  
describes his work as that of a [redacted]

[redacted] further advised that on July 11, 1973  
he was performing a 3:15 P.M. to 11:45 P.M. shift. At  
approximately 12:15 A.M. that evening, [redacted] advised  
that while driving from the Publications Center passing the  
Records Center in an attempt to exit on Page Boulevard,  
he observed smoke emanating from the top floor of the  
Records Center. [redacted] stated that in an attempt  
to get a closer look to see where the smoke was coming  
from he drove his car to a position facing the south side  
of the building. At that time at the southeast corner  
of the building [redacted] stated he observed smoke  
and approximately five different blazes on the sixth floor  
of the Records Center. The blazes were as [redacted]  
described rising to approximately two feet above the  
window ledge on the sixth floor and were separated approximately  
ten feet apart. Furthermore [redacted] stated the  
blazes which he saw covered an area from the center  
of the building to the southeast corner of the building.

b7C

[redacted] advised that when he first observed  
the flames they appeared to have been going "pretty well"  
by the time he observed them. [redacted] stated after  
noting the seriousness of the fire, he immediately  
proceeded to the west side of the building to alert the  
guard who was stationed there at which time he was met  
in front of the building by that same guard who advised  
he was aware of the fire.

Interviewed on 7-18-73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-485-77  
by SA [redacted] SS [redacted] Date dictated 7-18-73

Post Office Drawer 7251, Main Station  
St. Louis, Missouri  
August 3, 1973

b7C

[Redacted]  
Structures Section  
Center for Building Technology  
National Bureau of Standards  
Institute for Applied Technology  
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Dear [Redacted]

Enclosed are 53 photographs of the fire and its aftermath at the National Personnel Records Center - Military Branch, which were requested by you and [Redacted] of your office.

Pictures 1 through 11 were taken the morning of July 12, 1973 during the fire. They are identified as follows:

1. Northeast corner
2. East side
3. East side
4. Southeast corner
5. East side
6. East side
7. East side
8. Southeast corner
9. South side
10. Southwest corner
11. Northeast corner

Pictures 12 through 21 are aerial photos taken the late morning of July 12, 1973 while the building was still on fire. These photos are self-explanatory.

Pictures 22 through 24 are photos taken July 12, 1973 depicting the exterior of the building as follows:

Enclosures: 53

1 - Addressee

① - St. Louis (52-4856)

DRS:jet

(2)

139

- 22. Southwest corner
- 23. Southeast corner
- 24. East side

Pictures 25 through 30 were taken about 5:30 p.m. on July 13, 1973 from a snorkel fire truck and show the east side of the sixth floor.

Pictures 31 through 37 were taken about 9:30 a.m. on July 18, 1973, showing damage to the roof after the fire had been largely extinguished. These photos are also self-explanatory.

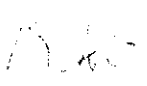
Pictures 38 through 53 show fire damage to the sixth floor. They were taken on July 18, 1973. They are more specifically identified as follows:

- 38. Midway in south corridor looking west
- 39. Midway in south corridor looking east
- 40. Caved in roof and bent shelves with charred records south side center
- 41. Office section north side
- 42. File shelves, bending toward south side of building taken from north side
- 43. Filing shelves looking south toward caved in area of roof
- 44. Filing shelves looking toward caved in roof
- 45. Records folder in south corridor
- 46. Stairwell on south side
- 47. Filing cabinets on south east side
- 48. Filing cabinets on south east side
- 49. Filing cabinets looking north from south side
- 50. Filing cabinets taken from cave-in area of roof
- 51. Filing shelves north central area
- 52. Filing shelves and roof
- 53. Filing shelves, charred paper and roof.

On July 18, 1973 the sixth floor was examined by Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for physical evidence of the cause of the fire. Due to nearly total devastation, as well as the presence of large amounts of water, and much of the floor being covered with concrete and rubble, it was not possible to make a determination as to the cause of the fire.

It is hoped the above described photos will assist you in your inquiry into this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
ROBERT G. KUNKEL  
Special Agent in Charge

Post Office Drawer 7251, Main Station  
St. Louis, Missouri  
August 3, 1973

b7C

[REDACTED]  
Public Buildings Service  
National Personnel Records Center  
Military Branch  
9700 Page Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear [REDACTED]

Enclosed herewith is one copy each of 53 photographs taken of the fire and its aftermath at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, St. Louis, Missouri.

Pictures 1 through 11 were taken the morning of July 12, 1973 during the fire. They are identified as follows:

1. Northeast corner
2. East side
3. East side
4. Southeast corner
5. East side
6. East side
7. East side
8. Southeast corner
9. South side
10. Southwest corner
11. Northeast corner

Pictures 12 through 21 are aerial photos taken the late morning of July 12, 1973 while the building was still on fire. These photos are self-explanatory.

Pictures 22 through 24 are photos taken July 12, 1973 depicting the exterior of the building as follows:

Enclosures: 53

1 - Addressee

1 - St. Louis (52-4856)

DRS:jet

(2)

140

- 22. Southwest corner
- 23. Southeast corner
- 24. East side

Pictures 25 through 30 were taken about 5:30 p.m. on July 13, 1973 from a snorkel fire truck and show the east side of the sixth floor.

Pictures 31 through 37 were taken about 9:30 a.m. on July 18, 1973, showing damage to the roof after the fire had been largely extinguished. These photos are also self-explanatory.

Pictures 38 through 53 show fire damage to the sixth floor. They were taken on July 18, 1973. They are more specifically identified as follows:

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- 44. Filing shelves looking toward caved in roof
- 45. Records folder in south corridor
- 46. Stairwell on south side
- 47. Filing cabinets on south east side
- 48. Filing cabinets on south east side
- 49. Filing cabinets looking north from south side
- 50. Filing cabinets taken from cave-in area of roof
- 51. Filing shelves north central area
- 52. Filing shelves and roof
- 53. Filing shelves, charred paper and roof

The above photos are also described on page 167 and 168 of the report previously furnished.

It is hoped that these photos will assist you in your inquiry into this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
ROBERT G. KUNKEL  
Special Agent in Charge

Post Office Drawer 7251, Main Station  
St. Louis, Missouri  
August 3, 1973

[Redacted]  
National Personnel Records Center  
Military Branch  
9700 Page Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri

b7C

Dear [Redacted]

Enclosed herewith is one copy each of 53 photographs taken of the fire and its aftermath at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, St. Louis, Missouri.

Pictures 1 through 11 were taken the morning of July 12, 1973 during the fire. They are identified as follows:

1. Northeast corner
2. East side
3. East side
4. Southeast corner
5. East side
6. East side
7. East side
8. Southeast corner
9. South side
10. Southwest corner
11. Northeast corner

Pictures 12 through 21 are aerial photos taken the late morning of July 12, 1973 while the building was still on fire. These photos are self-explanatory.

Pictures 22 through 24 are photos taken July 12, 1973 depicting the exterior of the building as follows:

Enclosures: 53

1 - Addressee

① - St. Louis (52-4856)

DRS:jet

(2)

*jet*

*52-141*

- 22. Southwest corner
- 23. Southeast corner
- 24. East side

Pictures 25 through 30 were taken about 5:30 p.m. on July 13, 1973 from a snorkel fire truck and show the east side of the sixth floor.

Pictures 31 through 37 were taken about 9:30 a.m. on July 18, 1973 showing damage to the roof after the fire had been largely extinguished. These photos are also self-explanatory.

Pictures 38 through 53 show fire damage to the sixth floor. They were taken on July 18, 1973. They are more specifically identified as follows:

- 38. Midway in south corridor looking west
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- 48. Filing cabinets on southeast side
- 49. Filing cabinets looking north from south side
- 50. Filing cabinets taken from cave-in area of roof
- 51. Filing shelves north central area
- 52. Filing shelves and roof
- 53. Filing shelves, charred paper and roof

The above photos are also described on page 167 and 168 of the report previously furnished.



It is hoped that these photos will assist you in your inquiry into this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
ROBERT G. KUNKEL  
Special Agent in Charge

Post Office Drawer 7251, Main Station  
St. Louis, Missouri  
August 3, 1973

[Redacted]  
General Services Administration  
1500 East Bannister Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64131

b7C

Dear [Redacted]

Enclosed herewith is one copy each of 53 photographs taken of the fire and its aftermath at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, St. Louis, Missouri.

Pictures 1 through 11 were taken the morning of July 12, 1973 during the fire. They are identified as follows:

1. Northeast corner
2. East side
3. East side
4. Southeast corner
5. East side
6. East side
7. East side
8. Southeast corner
9. South side
10. Southwest corner
11. Northeast corner

Pictures 12 through 21 are aerial photos taken the late morning of July 12, 1973 while the building was still on fire. These photos are self-explanatory.

Pictures 22 through 24 are photos taken July 12, 1973 depicting the exterior of the building as follows:

Enclosures: 53  
1 - Addressee  
1 - St. Louis (52-4856)  
DRS:jet  
(2)

142

- 22. Southwest corner
- 23. Southeast corner
- 24. East side

Pictures 25 through 30 were taken about 5:30 p.m. on July 13, 1973 from a snorkel fire truck and show the east side of the sixth floor.

Pictures 31 through 37 were taken about 9:30 a.m. on July 18, 1973 showing damage to the roof after the fire had been largely extinguished. These photos are also self-explanatory.

Pictures 38 through 53 show fire damage to the sixth floor. They were taken on July 18, 1973. They are more specifically identified as follows:

- 38. Midway in south corridor looking west
- 39. Midway in south corridor looking east
- 40. Caved in roof and bent shelves with charred records south side center
- 41. Office section north side
- 42. File shelves, bending toward south side of building taken from north side
- 43. Filing shelves looking south toward caved in area of roof
- 44. Filing shelves looking toward caved in roof
- 45. Records folder in south corridor
- 46. Stairwell on south side
- 47. Filing cabinets on southeast side
- 48. Filing cabinets on southeast side
- 49. Filing cabinets looking north from south side
- 50. Filing cabinets taken from cave-in area of roof
- 51. Filing shelves north central area
- 52. Filing shelves and roof
- 53. Filing shelves, charred paper and roof

The above photos are also described on page 167 and 168 of the report previously furnished.

It is hoped that these photos will assist you in your inquiry into this matter.

Very truly yours,

*R. G. Kunkel*  
ROBERT G. KUNKEL  
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Region 6  
1500 East Bannister Road  
Kansas City, MO 64131

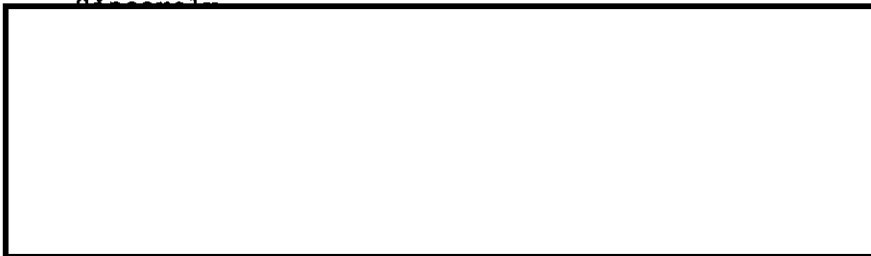


August 2, 1973

Mr. Robert G. Kunkel  
Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Post Office Box 7251  
St. Louis, Missouri 63177

Dear Mr. Kunkel:

Thank you for your letter of July 31, 1973 and the enclosed  
investigative report of the fire in the St. Louis National  
Personnel Records Center. I appreciate you making this in-  
formation available to me.



b7C

52-4856-143

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 4 1973	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Hopes U.S. Will Cover Records Fire Expense

Representative James W. Symington (Dem.), Clayton, is pressing efforts in two directions toward compensating the 11 metropolitan area fire departments that responded to the fire last month at the Military Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, Overland.

At a press conference today, Symington said officials of the General Services Administration, which operates the building and is in charge of the millions of personnel records contained there, "were receptive to the idea of reimbursement and are awaiting only the General Accounting Office's determination of their legal authority to do so."

If direct compensation is not possible, Symington said he would introduce legislation this fall to provide the compensation, together with legislation to prevent a similar problem in the future.

Symington said the total compensation amounted to \$16,643, which covers \$15,576 for supplemental manpower expenses, \$1402 for fuel and \$965 in lost or damaged equipment.

The fire broke out July 12 in the two-block long building and burned out of control for two days. The greatest damage was on the sixth floor, although other floors suffered water damage.

About 20,000,000 Army records from 1912 through 1960 and World War II were destroyed. Renovation of the building is

expected to cost \$13,000,000.

If his legislation had been on the books at the time of the fire, the departments could have applied for compensation through the Protection Assistance Administration for compensation.

Concerning the fire itself, Symington said the Federal Government "could have and should have done much more to prevent the tragedy."

"I am quite concerned that this fire could have been prevented and that other federal buildings might be similarly lacking in effective fire preventive equipment." He said he had suggested the fire as "an appropriate subject of interest" to be investigated by the House government activities subcommittee, headed by Representative Jack Brooks (Dem.), Texas.

"I invited Brooks to join me in requesting a full investigation by the General Accounting Office into the measures taken to prevent and contain possible fires at the Records Center and the fire protection practices employed nationally by the General Services Administration. I think a complete review by the independent, congressionally controlled General Accounting Office is required."

"The General Services Administration regional office in Overland Park is conducting an investigation of the fire protection practices there were highly commendable," Symington said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P7, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 8/6/73  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification: 52-4856  
Submitting Office: SL

☐ Being Investigated



*Handwritten initials/signature*

b7C

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION 52-4856\*

Region 6  
1500 East Bannister Road  
Kansas City, MO 64131



August 7, 1973

Mr. Robert G. Kunkel  
Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Post Office Drawer 7251  
Main Station  
St. Louis, MO

Dear Mr. Kunkel,

Thank you for thinking of us and for sending the 53 photographs  
taken of the fire at the MPRC Building, St. Louis.

We appreciate having these for our files.



b7C

K.

52-4856-145

SEARCHED <i>OK</i>	INDEXED <i>OK</i>
SERIALIZED <i>OK</i>	FILED <i>OK</i>
AUG 10 1973	
S	

*AD*

Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Following is my understanding of NPRC(MPR) policies with regard to liaison offices and tenant activities, including RCPAC.

1. Personnel of the Liaison Offices and Tenant Activities (including RCPAC) may NOT enter GSA file area. GSA will perform all searches for these offices.

2. Until August 15, only emergency type requests will be processed for Liaison Offices and Tenant Activities. After that date, routine inquiries will be accepted.

3. Liaison Offices and Tenant Activities may move back into their offices provided they get a clearance from [redacted] Such moves will be with the understanding that they are TEMPORARY pending further space determinations, and also with the understanding that electrical outlets and telephones may not be available for some time.

b7C

4. At this time, there will be no loans of records outside the building, except for RCPAC at the GEM store. RCPAC will pick up and return records. (If arrangements are worked out for CSC agents to work at CPR, records may be transported by NPRC to that location.)

*LLC*  
[redacted]  
8/9/73  
*lm*  
8-10

b7C

52-4856-146

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 10 1973	
FBI — ST. LOUIS	

*MAC*

*K*

[redacted]



8/10/73

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) P

RE: MAJOR FIRE  
NATIONAL PERSONNEL - MILITARY BRANCH  
(NPRC-M),  
7/12/73,  
DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY -  
POSSIBLE ARSON  
OO: ST. LOUIS

Re SL airtel to Bureau 8/1/73.

For information of the Bureau, segments of the Records Center Building, the sixth floor of which is undergoing demolition, are scheduled for final safety inspection the week of 8/20/73. If no serious safety factors are uncovered, portions of the building will become available for use.

At this time limited record keeping operations are being carried on in the cafeteria building, largely to meet heavy correspondence from persons making inquiries regarding their own military records and which were stimulated by news of the fire.

Access to remaining records is still frozen for tenant agencies, and access to large sections of each floor beneath demolition operations will be prohibited for some time to anyone at all.

2 - Bureau  
2 - St. Louis  
DRS/jmg  
(4)

*K*

-147  
b7C



SL 52-4856

Regarding information previously furnished the Bureau relating to use of the Veterans Administration Automatic Data Processing facility at Austin, Texas, further investigation into the matter reflects that data available there is severely limited, and would not serve the Bureau's purpose in making record checks. In order to query the VA computer, name, rank, serial number, date of birth, and place of birth is required. The computer response will merely verify this information, plus furnish a "C" number. The "C" number in no way indicates that a VA claim has been made or that there is a VA record in existence somewhere else. Information as to whether a VA claim had been made, and in what region would also be necessary for any use to be made of this information. Because of the very small number of cases in which a record might be located through this means during any given month, it is not felt the use of the VA's Automatic Data Processing is feasible for Bureau purposes, and it is recommended that no further action be taken regarding its use.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Bureau of Standards  
Washington, D.C. 20234

August 10, 1973

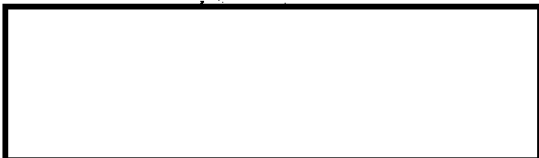
Mr. Robert G. Kunkel  
Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Post Office Drawer 7251, Main Station  
St. Louis, Missouri 33177

Dear Mr. Kunkel:

Thank you for your letter of August 3, 1973 and the enclosed photographs of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Your cooperation in sending us these photographs is very much appreciated and assists us in our structural evaluation of the Records Center building. They were especially significant in helping us determine when the roof structure began to collapse.

We are in the process of compiling all information and photographs on the structure and reports will be prepared in the near future. I am sure that these reports can be made available to you if they would be of use in any further investigation by your office.

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter.



52-4856


Office of Federal Building Technology  
Center for Building Technology

b7C

52-4856-148

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

73  
115



b7C

AUG 9 1973

Honorable David O. Cooke  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
for Administration  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Mr. Cooke:

My purpose in writing is twofold--first, I want to thank you for the generous cooperation extended to the National Archives and Records Service during the recent fire at our National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Secondly, I want to give you a brief status report on our progress to restore services.

Your message (122149Z July 1973) to the Secretaries of the Military Departments, sent at our request, advised them to hold all inquiries and transfers of records to St. Louis until further notice.

I am pleased to inform you that we will resume limited reference service on August 15, 1973. Therefore, the Military Departments may forward inquiries to St. Louis except for those inquiries relating to Army personnel discharged during 1912 through 1959, and Air Force personnel, whose surnames begin with letters I through Z, discharged during 1947 through 1963. We will advise you later when we will be ready to resume service on those records. We will also resume accessioning personnel and medical records of separated military personnel on October 15, 1973.

I will appreciate your informing the Military Departments of our resumption of limited service. We will keep you advised of any future developments that will affect the various services.

Sincerely,

SECRET: Port Roads

JAMES B. MCROADS  
Archivist of the United States

Official file:NC

Day file:NC

N

NCP

OSCAROO:hwp:8-9-73

*De 8/9/73*

52-4856-149  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

AUG 15 1973

8/23/73

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (66-2315)  
SUBJECT: MILITARY RECORD CHECKS  
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS  
CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M)

Re Bureau teletype to all offices dated 7/12/73, captioned "MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M), 7/12/73. DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - POSSIBLE ARSON. OO: ST. LOUIS".

Referenced teletype notified all field offices <sup>b7C</sup> the discontinuance of military record checks due to the Records Center fire and instructed St. Louis to advise all offices when the record checks could be resumed.

[redacted] the National Personnel Records Center - Military, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, advised that records not destroyed in the fire or through water damage are available for review and that requests from the FBI will be accepted for processing. This means that military records for the various services will again be available for review except those records relating to Army personnel discharged during 1912 through 1959, and Air Force personnel, whose surnames begin with letters I through Z, discharged during 1947 through 1963. These were the records located on the sixth floor at the Records Center destroyed by the fire and include records from World War I, World War II, Post World War, and Air Force as indicated above. Some 20 million military records are included in this category.

2- Bureau (Enc. 1)  
2- St. Louis (1- 66-2315)  
(1- 52-4856)

CJD:lhc  
(4)

150  
11647

K.L.

SL 66-2315

Since it is recognized that requests will be made by field offices which may involve records falling within the above category because the field office making the request may only have a name and a military serial number, it is recommended that the field offices not attempt to make a determination as to whether or not the request falls within the exception category, but rather to have St. Louis make that determination. Then there would be no restriction placed on the field in the submission of military record review requests.

If, after making the proper check here and it is determined that the particular record sought for review was one of those destroyed and in the exception category, that particular request will be returned by St. Louis to the requesting office with the notation, "Military record destroyed by fire." This would serve as a flag to preclude any future request being made for a review of that particular military file. This would differ from a request being returned to the requesting office with a negative notation indicating that the military record could not be located based on the information available. This means that a file probably does exist but could not be located based on the amount of information furnished and a follow-up request could be made if more identifying data is developed. By having the "Military record destroyed by fire" notation, follow-up requests would at least be eliminated.

A point that should be brought to the Bureau's attention is the fact that new security procedures have been placed into effect by the Records Center management as a result of the fire. Hereafter, no non-national archives or non-record service personnel will be permitted in the file areas or permitted to conduct military record searches. This means that once our requests are made for military records, we will have to wait until Records Center personnel search, locate, and make the records available for review. Sole dependence on their personnel will make meeting deadlines difficult since it can take up to at least two weeks in some instances for them to locate records requested by us if the records are out of jacket or cannot be readily located for other reasons.

SL 66-2315

We will, however, make every effort once the records are in our possession to expedite the reviews. The Bureau's consideration in this regard will most certainly be appreciated.

In accordance with the Bureau's instructions, St. Louis will direct a communication to all field offices advising that submission of requests to St. Louis for review of military records can be resumed in accordance with procedures that were in effect prior to the fire.

Enclosed for the Bureau is a copy of the communication to be sent to all offices and unless advised otherwise by the Bureau by 8/28/73, St. Louis will advise all offices.

8/28/73

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
AND ALL OFFICES

FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (66-2315)

SUBJECT: MILITARY RECORD CHECKS  
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS  
CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M)

Re Bureau teletype to all offices dated 7/12/73,  
captioned "MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY (NPRC-M), 7/12/73. DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY -  
POSSIBLE ARSON. OO: ST. LOUIS".

This is to advise all offices that effective upon  
receipt of this communication, each field office can resume  
submitting requests to St. Louis for checks of military records  
at the National Personnel Records Center - Military (NPRC-M).  
Requests should continue to be submitted as in the past and  
in accordance with procedures that were in effect prior to the  
fire at the Records Center.

For the information of all offices, military records  
approximating some 20 million were destroyed by fire and water  
damage. Military records relating to Army personnel discharged  
during 1912 through 1959 (World War I, World War II, and Post  
World War) and Air Force personnel whose surnames begin with  
letters I through Z, discharged during 1947 through 1963, are  
involved. Therefore, should a request be returned by St. Louis  
to the requesting office with the notation "Military record  
destroyed by fire", a follow-up request should not be made at

2- Bureau  
1- Each Office  
2- St. Louis (1- 66-2315)  
(1- 52-4856)

CJD:lhc  
(62)

151  
1267



SL 66-2315

some future date concerning that particular record because there would be no file in existence. This will differ from a request returned with a negative notation indicating that a file could not be located based on information furnished. This shows that a file probably does exist but could not be located based on the amount of information available and in this situation a follow-up request could be made at some future date should additional identifying data be developed. By handling requests in this manner, follow-up requests involving records destroyed by the fire will be eliminated.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

FROM : *PCY*  
*on* SAC, KANSAS CITY (52-5990) P

DATE: 9/6/73

SUBJECT: MAJOR FIRE  
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY (NPRC - M), 7/12/73  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
CGP - POSSIBLE ARSON

OO: ST. LOUIS

Re Kansas City airtel to St. Louis, 7/16/73.

On 8/2 and 30/73, [redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, telephone [redacted] employed as a  
[redacted] at KCMO - TV, telephone 531-6789, advised she has no  
further information in this matter and the unknown male did  
not call again on 8/1/73, as he promised during his telephone  
call which was received on 7/16/73.

All Agents of the Kansas City Office have been  
advised of this matter. To date, no information has been  
provided by logical sources and informants of the Kansas City  
Office.

b7C

2 - St. Louis  
2 - Kansas City  
WSP:rd  
(4)



5010-108-02

52-4856-152

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 6 1973	

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

9/18/73

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) (C)  
SUBJECT: MAJOR FIRE,  
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS  
CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M)  
7/12/73  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON

Re SL airtels to Bureau dated 8/23 and 8/28/73,  
entitled "MILITARY RECORD CHECKS, NATIONAL PERSONNEL  
RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M)" and SL report of SA  
[redacted] dated 7/30/73.

b7C

For the information of the Bureau, the J. S.  
Alberici Construction Company (which has the prime contract  
for demolition operations at the Record Center) has completely  
cleared the area in which the fire was believed to have  
started. No evidence has been developed to indicate that the  
fire was caused by arson; and, in fact, no cause whatsoever  
has been determined for the fire.

2 - Bureau  
1 - St. Louis  
DRS:kmt  
(3)

9/25/73  
mat  
K4

*Close*

52-4856-153  
[redacted]  
MAT

**SL 52-4856**

Various contacts on a local basis with the Center's Safety Office, the Public Building Service, the National Archives and Records Service, the Federal Protective Service, and the Regional Security Office of the General Services Administration have failed to develop any information whatsoever that the fire was caused by arson.

The Ad Hoc Committee established to investigate causes for the fire, according to sources at the Record Center, has learned through the utilization of experts in investigation of fire causes that a fire of the intensity experienced could readily have developed in a very short time from a number of natural causes, given the means of records storage at the Center. It has also been learned that the extent of destruction is being at least partially attributed to the technique used in fighting the fire. It has been suggested that a lack of experience and knowledge on the fighting of this kind of fire contributed substantially to the amount of resulting damage.

Inasmuch as investigation conducted since submission of the referenced report contains no significant information as to the cause of the fire and since no evidence whatsoever has been developed to indicate that the fire was caused by arson, no further investigation is being conducted at St. Louis and the case is considered closed.

Should information develop which bears on the cause of the fire, it will be immediately brought to the Bureau's attention.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/18/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, was contacted by SA [redacted] at his residence, concerning the fire that occurred at the National Personnel Records Center-Military (NPRC-M) on July 11, 1973, and [redacted] furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised that he has been employed as a GS-4 [redacted] at the record center since October, 1971, and in recent weeks has been working on special projects. [redacted] said that his work is primarily located on the first and second floors of the record center but he had previously worked on the sixth floor. During the evening of July 11, 1973, [redacted] worked entirely on the first and second floors and only left these floors to proceed to the fifth floor snack bar at approximately 8:00 P.M. After a short break he returned again to his work area on the first and second floor. [redacted] advised he knew of no one that he had come in contact with at the center who would be desirous or capable of burning the record center, and on the evening of July 11, 1973, he said he noticed nothing out of the ordinary. [redacted] first became aware of the fire at approximately 12:25 A.M., July 12, 1973, when he went to the first floor of the record center to sign out for the evening. At that time he saw fire trucks and firemen arriving at the building. He went outside, and observed flames coming from the southeast corner of the building near the windows. [redacted] said at that time, approximately 12:35 A.M., the flames were confined to the southeast corner area. At approximately 12:40 A.M. [redacted] left the center and returned to his residence. The following information was obtained from interview and observation:

Name	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Marital Status	Married
Height	5'9"
Weight	155

Interviewed on 7/16/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-154  
by SA [redacted] :ck Date dictated 7/18/73

SL 52-4856

Residence

[REDACTED]

Missouri

b7C

Telephone Number

[REDACTED]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/18/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, was contacted by SA [redacted] at his parents residence concerning the fire, which occurred at the National Personnel Records Center-Military (NPRC-M) on the evening of July 11, 1973, and furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised he has been employed at the record center since June, 1972, as a GS-1 [redacted]. His normal working hours are 4:00 to 12:00 A.M., and his areas of responsibility at the center are the fourth and fifth floors.

On the evening of July 11, 1973, [redacted] worked entirely on the fourth and fifth floor and did not have occasion to go to the sixth floor. [redacted] said he knew of no one he had come in contact with at the record center who would be desirous and capable of destroying the building. He said he first became aware of the fire at approximately 12:15 A.M., when he went to the second floor of the building to sign out for the evening. At that time [redacted] told him there was a fire in the building. [redacted] then decided to go take a look at the fire and left the second floor via the stairwell, and climbed to the sixth floor. This particular stairwell, [redacted] said, was the one nearest the main entrance desk on the west end of the building. Upon arriving on the sixth floor, [redacted] observed smoke coming out of the sixth floor doors and seemingly flowing into a nearby elevator shaft. [redacted] opened a door in the hallway which leads to the file section on the sixth floor in the southwest corner of the building. He walked over to the south side of the building where the windows are located and said that the west one-third of the building on the sixth floor in the file section was not on fire and was relatively clear of smoke. However, as he looked toward the east end of the building and began walking in this direction, he ran into a solid wall of heavy dense, grayish-black smoke. He estimated that this covered the other two-thirds of the floor. At that time he left the file area and entered into the hallway; and tried to close a few doors that were opened to the file section.

b7C

Interviewed on 7/17/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856-155  
by SA [redacted] :ck Date dictated 7/18/73

SL 52-4856

He then left the sixth floor via the stairway he had come up and proceeded to the second floor, where he exited the building. He stayed outside the building only approximately five minutes and left for his residence. [ ] recalled that on the sixth floor some lights were on but he could not tell if the exhaust fans were on or off. [ ] emphasized on the west one-third of the sixth floor he did not observe any flames and the area was relatively clear of smoke. He said on his travels to and from the sixth floor he did not observe anyone else.

[ ] further stated that prior to being informed that a fire had occurred in the building at 12:15 A.M. he had not observed any smoke.

The following information was obtained from observation and interview:

b7C

Name	[ ]
Residence	[ ]
Parents Residence	[ ]
Race	Missouri
Sex	White
Date of Birth	Male
Marital Status	[ ]
Military	Single
Occupation	Veteran - U.S. Coast Guard
	Student - Meramec Junior College,
	majoring in general courses
Height	6 feet
Weight	180
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Telephone Number	[ ]

[ ] said he had been notified to report for work at the New Federal Building in St. Louis on the 4:00 to 12:00 shift beginning July 17, 1973.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/20/73

[redacted] Missouri Fire District, 11720 Olive Boulevard, furnished the following information:

Personnel and equipment including a snorkel fire truck were called to the National Personnel Records Center - Military (NPRC-M), 9700 Page Boulevard, Overland, Missouri, on July 12, 1973, at approximately 1:34 A.M. in order to help fight a fire that had broken out in the center. He arrived on the scene at approximately 2:24 A.M., July 12, 1973, and became involved in setting up the equipment for the fighting of the fire.

At approximately 3:45 A.M., he received a report that smoke was coming out of the windows on the east side of the record center building and walked from the south side to the east side to the vicinity of the east entrance. Observed were two guards from the record center wearing blue uniforms. Both were standing approximately 50 feet from the east door and engaged in conversation with each other. b7C

One of the guards was a light complected Negro, approximately 6'2" to 6'3" tall, with a well trimmed mustache and probably in his upper 50's. The second guard was a dark complected Negro approximately 5'10" tall, possibly in his early 40s. According to [redacted] the first guard may have been a Sergeant as he possibly had stripes on the arm of his uniform and possibly a gold stripe on his cap. This guard also seemed to be the second guard's superior.

The conversation the guards were engaged in concerned two individuals who entered the east door of the center at about 11:45 A.M., July 11, 1973, just prior to the fire being discovered. The taller guard asked if they were employees. This other guard, the shorter of the two, replied that the center was hiring a lot of college kids and thought that the two individuals who entered the building might have been part of this group. There was talk about the guards entering the building but not locating these individuals. There was also talk about the guards either radioing for or going for help in an attempt to locate the two individuals.

Interviewed on 7/18/73 at Creve Coeur, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 /56

by *fw* SA [redacted]:ck

Date dictated 7/19/73

SL 52-4856

There was also talk about one of the guards discovering the fire about 12:20 or 12:30 A.M., July 12, 1973.

[ ] advised that he did not fully hear all parts of the conversation between the two guards but that he reported the conversation best he could recall.

[ ] in addition, advised that fire equipment had not been brought to the east side of the building until about 8:00 or 8:30 A.M., July 12, 1973, when it was felt that the fire was spreading to that area. At the time the equipment was brought, the east doors on the ground floor were open. He did not know if they were open earlier when he had overheard the guards speaking. b7C

[ ] furnished a copy of his report dated July 16, 1973, regarding the military personnel records center.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/27/73

[redacted] the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page Boulevard, Overland, Missouri, was contacted regarding the fire at the NPRC which occurred during the early morning hours of July 12, 1973.

[redacted] the guards for the Record Center on July 11, 1973, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. He stated that during the course of his duties he received absolutely no indication of a fire at the NPRC nor did he receive any information from any of his guards that anything unusual was taking place on that particular day.

b7C

Interviewed on 7/17/73 at Overland, Mo. File # SL 52-4856 -157  
by SA [redacted] jmg Mmm Date dictated 7/23/73

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

DATE: 10/5/73

FROM *Py* SAC, KANSAS CITY (52-5990) RUC  
*Ln*

SUBJECT: MAJOR FIRE,  
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER  
--MILITARY (NPRC-M), 7/12/73,  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI,  
CGP--POSSIBLE ARSON  
OO SL

Re Kansas City letter to St. Louis, 9/6/73.

No information has been provided by logical  
sources and informants of the Kansas City Office.

② St. Louis  
1 Kansas  
WSP:SCS  
(3)



5010-108-01

52-4856-158

SEARCHED <i>ln</i>	INDEXED <i>ln</i>
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OCT 11 1973	
<i>IS</i>	

b7C

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

F B I

Date:

NR009 SL PLAIN

PM NITEL 10-12-73 WRF

TO DIRECTOR

FROM ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONELL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M),  
DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - POSSIBLE ARSON, OO: ST. LOUIS;  
7/12/73.

[REDACTED] N/M, DOB [REDACTED] POB SLMO, 5'11", 224  
LBS. FURNISHED SIGNED STATEMENT 10/12 INSTANT; IN WHICH HE ADMITTED  
SMOKING A CIGARETTE AND CARELESSLY DISGARDING MATCH ON 6TH FLOOR OF  
NPRC-M 11:00 PM 7/11/73. AREA REFERRED TO IS PRECISE AREA WHERE MAJOR  
FIRE FIRST DISCOVERED AND IS AREA WHERE SMOKING AND POSSESION OF  
MATCHES EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN. b7C

[REDACTED] INDICATED HE WAS NOT CERTAIN WHERE MATCH FELL AND THAT HE  
LATER INSERTED HOT END OF CIGARETTE BUTT IN BOLT HOLE ON FILE SHELVES  
BREAKING OFF MAJORITY OF LIT END IN THE HOLE AND WIPING REMAINING HOT  
SPARKS ON SIDE OF FILE SHELVEING. [REDACTED] THEN RETURNED TO WORK AREA  
WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL 12:10 AM. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO SIGN OUT AREA  
TO GO HOME. [REDACTED] SAID AS HE PROCEEDED TO THE CORRIDER HE SMELLED  
SMOKE AND AS HE LEFT BUILDING OBSERVED FIRE ENGINES ARRIVING. [REDACTED]  
STATED HE IMMEDIATELY FELT HIS CIGARETTE AND MATCH HAD CAUSED FIRE, BUT  
WAS AFRAID TO ADMIT WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

END PAGE ONE

52-4856-159  
SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

ROXA

[REDACTED]

122

Charge

Ref

4150

73

468-574

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via PAGE TWO

SL 52-4856

FACTS PRESENTED USA EDM, SLMO WHO INDICATED THAT [REDACTED]

USA REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION TO INCLUDE INTERVIEW OF  
PERSONS [REDACTED] HAD TOLD HE SET FIRE AND MEDICAL AND SCHOOL RECORDS.

FOR INFORMATION BUREAU [REDACTED]

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

END

b7C

Agent in Charge

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>ST. LOUIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>ST. LOUIS</b>	DATE <b>10/17/73</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>7/13/73 - 10/16/73</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>CHANGED</b> <b>MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M) JULY 12, 1973</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA</b> [REDACTED]	TYPED BY <b>dls</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON</b>	

Title marked changed to include identity of subject.

REFERENCES: St. Louis report of SA [REDACTED] 7/30/73;  
St. Louis teletype to Bureau, 10/12/73.

b7C

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Investigative period extended to include interview of [REDACTED] on July 13, 1973, which was previously reported, but which is of great significance to current investigation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		

APPROVED

COPIES MADE:

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

- 2 - Bureau  
1 - USA, St. Louis (Enc. 1)  
2 - GSA, Regional Office  
Kansas City  
2 - St. Louis (52-4856)

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## Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	
Request Recd.	
Date Fwd.	
How Fwd.	
By	

## Notations

COVER PAGE

SL 52-4856

LEADS

ST. LOUIS DIVISION

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Will follow for prosecutive action.

Will arrange for [redacted] to identify  
photograph of [redacted]

b7C

- B\* -  
COVER PAGE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Attorney, St. Louis (Enc. 1)  
2 - General Services Administration,  
Kansas City Regional Office

Report of: SA [REDACTED] Office: ST. LOUIS  
Date: 10/17/73

Field Office File #: SL 52-4856 Bureau File #:

Title: [REDACTED]  
MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL  
PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY (NPRC-M)  
JULY 12, 1973

Character: DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - POSSIBLE ARSON

## Synopsis:

[REDACTED] EM, DOB [REDACTED] POB [REDACTED]  
BLMO, a [REDACTED] at National Personnel Records  
Center - Military Branch, furnished signed statement  
10/12/73 in which he admitted snuffing out cigarette on  
open file shelves and carelessly discarding match in 6th  
floor file area. Smoking in this area is strictly for-  
bidden. Five fellow workers furnished information that  
[REDACTED] made statements he had set fire. Also made state-  
ment to fellow workers that he intentionally set fire by  
pulling out file box and lighting it with matches. Educa-  
tional record set forth, as well as results of interview  
with [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b7C

- P -

## ENCLOSURES:

## TO UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

Enclosed for the U. S. Attorney is one copy of  
St. Louis report of SA [REDACTED] dated 7/30/73.

DETAILS: AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

10/17/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, was interviewed. He furnished the following signed statement:

St. Louis, Mo.  
October 12, 1973

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to SAs [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the FBI. Special Agent [redacted] advised me that he wanted to talk about the fire in the records center last July, and warned me of my rights. I have waived them as shown on a executed warning and waiver form.

"I am an employee of the General Services Administration, Public Building Service as a [redacted] I have been employed in this capacity for three years. Prior to beginning work I attended [redacted]

b7C

[redacted]  
"On July 11, 1973, I was working at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, 9700 Page, on my assigned job cleaning the escalators between the first and the sixth floor at the National Personnel Records Center - Military Branch. I worked alone for most of that night on the 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shift. At about 11:00 p.m., I had nearly finished my work, when I went to the sixth floor for a smoke. I had taken a cigarette from home, and placed it loose in my shirt pocket. I had also brought along a

10/12/73

St. Louis, Missouri

SL 52-1856

SA [redacted]

SA [redacted]

dls

10/17/73

book of matches. The file area on the sixth floor, near the middle of the building was dark, and no one else was there. I felt it was a good place to smoke without being detected. I was at the end of the files near the south end of the building. I can't recall the exact column number, but it was somewhere in the middle of the building, more to the west than to east. I smoked my cigarette pretty far, and I then decided to return to my working station. I snubbed my cigarette out on the side of a row of files. I actually put the hot end of the cigarette in a screw hole on what would be a corner leg or brace of the file shelves. I think I broke the hot end off in the hole, and then threw the cigarette butt to the floor. I looked down at the cigarette butt and didn't see no red, and I thought it was out. I then returned to the third floor and started cleaning on the escalators again. I was alone again, except for [redacted] who was working nearby.

b7C

"At about 12:10 a.m., I went down to the first floor, by the lobby on the east end of the building to wait for time to go home at 12:30 p.m. Some other custodial employees were there too, and we talked for awhile. I then signed out at about 12:30 a.m. on July 12, 1973, and was walking up the escalators which were turned off at that time. I went to the west entrance where my car was parked, and I noticed fire trucks outside. I smelled smoke as I had gone down the corridor, and it occurred to me that maybe I had started a fire, that the cigarette might not have been out. The first thing I said to myself was "That was my cigarette that I thought I had put out". I was frightened and didn't know what to do so I did nothing. It has been on my mind and I have been worried about the fire, because I did not intend for it to happen. I didn't mean for to do it on purpose. I didn't do it deliberately.

"I told some people that I threw matches in the files, but I was only running off at the mouth. I lit just one match for my cigarette and I shook it out and threw it down. I don't know where it landed, but I think it landed on the floor.

"I have read the above statement consisting of this and four other pages and it is true.

"/s/ [redacted]

Witness:

/s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, St.  
Louis, Mo., 10/12/73

/s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, SLMO,  
10/12/73"

[redacted] is described through observation and interview as follows:

Name:	[redacted]
Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Place of birth:	St. Louis, Missouri
Height:	5'11"
Weight:	224 1/2 pounds
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Brown
Complexion:	Medium
Scars or marks:	None
Characteristics:	[redacted]
Father:	[redacted]
Sister:	[redacted]

Aunt:

Missouri

Education:

Home telephone:

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 10/17/73

Just prior to returning [redacted] to his assigned work area, Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] stopped in an assigned smoking area of the National Personnel Records Center. SA [redacted] took out a cigarette and offered one to [redacted] who took one. As SA [redacted] and [redacted] sat there and talked, [redacted] smoked this cigarette, but did not complete it before putting it out. b7C

Interviewed on 10/12/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856

by SA [redacted] /dls Date dictated 10/17/73 b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

10/17/73

[redacted] Missouri, advised that he is employed as a [redacted] at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). BANKS stated he has worked at the records center for eight years and has been an associate of [redacted] who is also employed as a [redacted]

Several times during the past couple of months [redacted] has made statements to him and to other custodians, with whom [redacted] is acquainted, about being involved in the setting of the fire on the 6th floor at the records center on July 11, 1973.

About a month ago, [redacted] said to [redacted] for no apparent reason, and in the following exact words that, "I burned the sixth floor." [redacted] said that everyone knows [redacted] likes to get attention for himself, so he paid no attention to him when he heard the remark, but he noticed that [redacted] was looking at him and smiling when the remark was made. [redacted] continued to make these remarks, [redacted] said, and on one occasion, [redacted] told him that no one would ever believe that he, [redacted] was responsible for the fire. While [redacted] said he has no information which would eliminate [redacted] as a suspect in the fire, he personally has made up his mind that [redacted] should not be taken seriously in a general sense, and that he could see no reason to take him seriously in the matter of responsibility for the records center fire.

b7C

[redacted] said that [redacted] has also claimed responsibility for the fire in the presence of other custodians as they have stood together in groups and talked. [redacted] said he could not remember who the people were, or when the discussions took place. He said he did recall telling these people that [redacted] was only bragging and that they shouldn't pay any attention to him. [redacted] said he could not recall the precise words used by [redacted] during these discussions due to passage of

10/16/73

Overland, Missouri

SI 42-4856

SA [redacted]

dis

10/17/73

time, but that they generally indicated that he, [redacted]  
was responsible for the records center fire.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Name:	[redacted]
Sex:	Male
Race:	Negro
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Place of birth:	[redacted] Missouri
Height:	6'
Weight:	205 pounds
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Brown
Complexion:	Dark
Social Security Account Number:	[redacted]

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

10/17/73

[redacted] St. Louis, [redacted] advised he has been employed as a [redacted] laborer at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch (NPRC-M) for a period of approximately 16 months. [redacted] said he did not work the second shift on the night of the fire, July 11, 1973. Since the fire, he has worked the 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. shift.

b7C

[redacted] said that he has known [redacted] since he started at the records center and that [redacted] was his first on the job friend. [redacted] said he immediately recognized [redacted] as someone who needs attention and guidance, and that he endeavored to befriend [redacted] and to "bring him under his wing". [redacted] said repeatedly that he felt something like a big brother to [redacted]

[redacted] advised he had heard through the "grapevine" at the records center that [redacted] had started the fire. He said that [redacted] had also made statements to him to the effect that he had started the fire, but that because [redacted] needs attention and "just talks", he did not take him too serious when he first heard these statements.

[redacted] said he began to take [redacted] a little more seriously when on about October 11, 1973, he became involved in a discussion of the fire with [redacted] and [redacted] in the cafeteria of the records center. [redacted] volunteered the statement "I set the fire, but they don't have any proof." [redacted] said he looked at [redacted] realized he was serious and admonished him, "You'd better be cool man." [redacted] said [redacted] responded to the admonition by simply laughing.

[redacted] said he could not recall the exact nature of the conversation that followed but that [redacted] had claimed he started the fire by setting matches he brought from home to a box of records.

10/15/73

Overland, Wisconsin

SI 52-4856

b7C

SA [redacted]

slb

10/17/73



[redacted] said that while he generally did not take [redacted] too seriously, he felt he may have been telling the truth about the fire. He said that while [redacted] he is plenty smart enough to not admit to something he had not actually done. [redacted] said he felt [redacted] believed he could admit involvement in the fire to his peers, primarily because considerable time had passed and he had not as yet been uncovered. [redacted] also seemed to feel secure in talking about his involvement with peers apparently based on the belief that he could not be reported by them. [redacted] said [redacted] may not have realized how angry many people were about the fire, including [redacted] himself.

b7C

BUCHANAN is described as follows:

Name:	[redacted]
Residence:	[redacted] Missouri
Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Place of birth:	[redacted] Mississippi
Height:	5'11"
Weight:	180 pounds
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Brown
Complexion:	Dark

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

10/17/73

[redacted]  
Missouri, advised he is presently employed as a [redacted]  
[redacted] at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC-M),  
St. Louis, Missouri. [redacted] said he has held this  
position for approximately 16 months, as a [redacted]  
He said he is associated on the job with [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] said he is not close to [redacted] as  
[redacted] has not got anything to say that [redacted] wants to  
listen to. [redacted] stated he feels this way because  
[redacted] is uneducated, and of limited general knowledge.

[redacted] said he was aware, however, that [redacted]  
[redacted] during a conversation involving some of the above  
named persons, exact ones unrecalled, had inquired in a  
"snickering way" what the penalty would be for a person  
convicted of the fire at the records center on July 11,  
1973. Everyone in the group laughed, but everyone got the  
impression from the remark that [redacted] may have been  
referring to himself. No one took him too seriously,  
however, as [redacted] is always looking for attention. This  
incident occurred about two months ago.

[redacted] said he never thought much more about  
the above situation until the week of October 8, 1973.  
Sometime during that week, [redacted] said [redacted] came  
to him in private and earnestly made inquiry as to what  
[redacted] though "they" could do to [redacted] what punishment could  
be given him if [redacted] set the fire. [redacted] said that in  
view of [redacted] danger, he began to seriously consider the  
possibility that [redacted] had set the fire. He reasoned  
that if [redacted] talked to anyone, he would have  
talked to [redacted] said, was the kind  
of person who would take a minute to listen to someone  
like [redacted] He always treated [redacted] with a lot of kind-  
ness and felt some compassion for him. [redacted] said he

10/15/73

Overland, Missouri

SL 52-4856

SA [redacted]

10/17/73

never heard [ ] make any statements to [ ] about lighting a box of files with matches. About a month and one-half ago [ ] did ask [ ] what he thought would happen to someone who set the fire at the records center. [ ] said he definitely felt [ ] was trying to search him out. The impression [ ] left was clearly that he was the one responsible for the fire.

[ ] said that while it was often difficult to take [ ] seriously because he tried to get a lot of attention, it was obvious that he felt things more deeply than he let on. For example, [ ] would laugh off a scolding from a supervisor and make very "light" of it, when actually he was deeply troubled by such occurrences and took them more seriously than he wanted it to appear.

b7C

[ ] is described as follows:

Name:	[ ]
Residence:	[ ] Missouri
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	[ ]
Place of birth:	[ ] Missouri
Height:	6'0"
Weight:	160 pounds
Hair:	Blonde
Eyes:	Blue
Social Security Account Number:	[ ]
Education:	High school; 2 semesters college
Marital Status:	Married

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

10/17/73

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri, advised that he is employed as a [redacted] at the National Personnel Records Center - Military Branch, 9700 Page, St. Louis, Missouri. [redacted] said he has been employed in this position since June of 1972 and has been a working colleague of [redacted] since that time.

[redacted] said that about a month ago, [redacted] told him that he had started the fire at the records center. [redacted] said he did not take [redacted] seriously [redacted] but that he was somewhat troubled by his statement as [redacted] tends to look up to [redacted] and will tell him things he will not tell anyone else. [redacted] said he feels he developed this relationship with [redacted] as he is careful to treat [redacted] kindly and tends to listen to him when no one else will. To the best of [redacted] collection, however, [redacted] said that he had "found" some matches on the first floor at NPRC and then went to the sixth floor to start the fire, simply "for something to do".

b7C

On October 11, 1973, [redacted] said he again discussed the fire with [redacted] and [redacted] repeated that he had started the fire. On this occasion [redacted] advised that he had brought matches from home. [redacted] said he pointed out to [redacted] that he had previously stated the matches were found on the first floor. [redacted] merely responded with a "Yeah". During this conversation [redacted] said he started the fire near the west end of the 6th floor. [redacted] said he at first tended to disbelieve what [redacted] was saying because on the night of the fire [redacted] was on the sixth floor after the fire started and he noticed no flames toward the west end.

[redacted] said he became increasingly troubled over [redacted] repeated statements that he set the fire and gradually began to believe that he might be telling the truth. On one occasion when he talked to [redacted]

10/15/73

Overland, Missouri

SL 52-4856

SA [redacted]

dis

10/17/73

told him to "shut up" because what he was saying would get him in trouble. Later [ ] said he began to "kid" [ ] that he would turn him in for all the work he had caused by starting the fire, but [ ] kept on talking. [ ] said he believed it was during the conversation in the cafeteria on October 11, 1973, that [ ] had said that he had actually pulled out a box of files on the sixth floor and set fire to the box with the matches he had in his possession. [ ] said he believed [ ] said this to him because, as previously stated, [ ] looked up to him and seemed to want to discuss the matter.

[ ] said that as he has thought about [ ] statements about the fire, he has gradually come to realize that [ ] may have been telling the truth. [ ] said he bases this belief on the recollection that when [ ] first discussed the matter with him, he was extremely secretive. As time passed, however, and [ ] apparently began to feel more secure that he would not be identified, he became more open in his statements about the fire. Later, when he would state he had set the fire, fellow workers would say "They're going to lock you up," to which [ ] would respond boastfully "How, they can't prove it." Recently, and particularly since [ ] statement on October 11, 1973, [ ] said that [ ] had said he was responsible for the fire frequently enough and earnestly enough that he began to "seriously wonder if [ ] may have actually been responsible for the fire." He said he was thrown off, however, by [ ] discrepancy as to where he had gotten the matches. [ ] said that on the other hand, [ ] had recently become very interested in what the penalty would be for the person responsible for the fire and that this lent substance to his belief that [ ] may have, in fact, set the fire at the records center.

b7C

[ ] described as follows:

Name: [ ]

Residence: [ ]

[ ] Missouri

ic

SL 52-4856

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	[REDACTED]
Place of birth:	[REDACTED] Missouri
Height:	6'1"
Weight:	175 pounds
Hair:	Blonde
Eyes:	Brown
Social Security	
Account Number:	[REDACTED]
Serial Number:	[REDACTED]

b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 10/17/73

[redacted] Missouri, advised he is an employee of the National Personnel Records Center - Military Branch as a [redacted]. He said he has been employed in this position for about 17 months.

[redacted] said that in this position he has been a working colleague of [redacted] said that about one week or a week and one-half ago, he was involved in a conversation with [redacted]

[redacted] The conversation turned to the fire at the records center, and [redacted] during the course of the conversation volunteered that he had started the fire. [redacted] said he looked at [redacted] who grinned and started to laugh. [redacted] did not take [redacted] too serious because he felt he was just attempting to get attention. During the course of this conversation either [redacted] asked [redacted] how he started the fire. [redacted] could not recall the exact conversation, but [redacted] said that he started the fire with matches, or something to that effect.

The only other recollection [redacted] had of [redacted] claiming he started the fire occurred about two months prior to the above occasion. Someone had made a comment about the fire and [redacted] simply blurted out "I started the fire." [redacted] said he told [redacted] to not even tell him about it, that he did not want to hear about it.

[redacted] said he could furnish no other information regarding this incident. He said that while he tended to not take [redacted] too seriously, it occurred to him that [redacted] may have been very serious about having set the fire.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Interviewed on 10/15/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856

by SA [redacted] JLS Date dictated 10/17/73

2

SL 52-4856

Name: [REDACTED]  
Residence: [REDACTED] Missouri  
Telephone number: [REDACTED]  
Race: White  
Sex: Male  
Date of birth: [REDACTED]  
Place of birth: [REDACTED] Missouri  
Height: 5'8"  
Weight: 130 pounds  
Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Hazel  
Social Security  
Account Number: [REDACTED]

b7C



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 10/17/73

[redacted] St. Louis Board of Education,  
 911 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that there  
 is a record on file in that agency for [redacted] date  
 of birth [redacted] place of birth, St. Louis,  
 Missouri, who is the son of [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] attended St. Louis schools as  
 follows:

SCHOOL	ADMISSION DATE
[redacted]	

b7C

No admission date is shown for 1967, however,  
 a withdrawal date of December 15, 1967 is shown with the  
 notation of [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] last address on the above record [redacted] is  
 shown as [redacted] Missouri.

Interviewed on 10/16/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 32-4856

by SA [redacted] SLS Date dictated 10/17/73

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date dictated 10/17/73

[redacted] advised that [redacted]  
[redacted] is a patient of his, and has been under  
his treatment on a regular basis. [redacted] stated that

[redacted]

[redacted] stated that [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] stated that [redacted]

[redacted]

b7C

Interviewed on 10/15/73 at St. Louis, Missouri File # 51-52-4856

by SA [redacted] /dlc Date dictated 10/17/73

b7C

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 10/17/73

b7C

[redacted] National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, 9700 Page Boulevard, Overland, Missouri, advised there is a long standing prohibition against smoking in any stock area of any record center operated by the United States Government. He advised that this prohibition applies equally to all persons employed in or visiting the center, regardless of agency or branch of Government service.

[redacted] stated that each new employee is informed of this stringent provision, and is constantly reminded of it through posting of pertinent regulations and issuance of documents setting forth these regulations to all employees.

Interviewed on 10/16/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 52-4856

by SA [redacted] dls Date dictated 10/17/73

b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SL 52-4856

[redacted] On October 16, 1973, [redacted]  
[redacted] advised there is no record on file regarding [redacted]  
[redacted] at the St. Louis City Police Department.

b7C

[redacted] On October 16, 1973, [redacted]  
[redacted] advised there is no record on file regarding [redacted]  
[redacted] at the St. Louis County Police Department.

# WEST BREEZE WAY

1:20 PM 10-12-23


[REDACTED]

AT ABOUT 120PM WILL ON DUTY AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE CONTROL OF NPRO BLDG. WEST BREEZE WAY RECEIVE A PHONE CALL FROM A MALE BELIEVE TO BE IN HIS FORTYS, STATED THAT A [REDACTED] [REDACTED] WHO WORK AT THE RECORDS CENTER WAS IN A BAR TWO NIGHTS IN A ROW SAYING AS HOW HIM & FRIENDS HATED THE ~~U.S.~~ U.S. GOVERNMENT & HOW THEY HAD REALLY MESSED UP THE BUILDING AT THE RECORDS CENTER AND HE HATED THE GOV, AND ~~HE~~ <sup>WOULD</sup> DO A BETTER JOB NEXT TIME. b7C

I ASK THE MAN HIS NAME A NUMEROUS OF TIMES BUT HE REFUSE TO GIVE IT HE SAID THAT [REDACTED] WAS A HOOD AND THAT HE HAD A LOT OF ~~HE~~ FRIENDS ~~THAT~~ ~~THE~~ WAS HOODS, IF HE KNEW THAT HE TOLD ON HIM HE WOULD KILL HIM, HE SAID THAT [REDACTED] HAD BEEN HAVING A LOT OF MONEY FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS (HE NEVER DID HAVE MUCH MONEY BEFORE) CALLER SAID THAT [REDACTED] TOLD HIM THAT HIS FRIENDS BROUGHT HIM HIS CAR A CADILLAC.

52- 4856-161

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
OCT 10 1973	



b7C

THE CALLER ALSO SAID THAT

b7C

68A 5-2-73 - 8-5-73

worked for



b7C

Works at AGPC  
for RCPAC.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, St. Louis 52-4856

DATE: 10-15-73

FROM :

SUBJECT:

Major Fice, NARC-M  
RCP - Possible Arson

Attached is a report of the Federal Protective Service, Officer [redacted] Badge [redacted] and a handwritten account of a telephone call (anonymous) received by [redacted] FRS.

b7C

The documents are self explanatory.

Lead:

St. Louis Division  
at St. Louis

1) Will do file review to determine whether mentioned [redacted] is identical to St. Louis Klan figure [redacted] and if so coordinate with the Security Squad.

2) Will locate and interview [redacted] regarding statements made in attached documents.

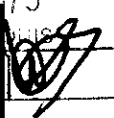

at NRC

Will obtain & review [redacted] journal



52-4856-162

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 11 1973	
FBI - [illegible]	



b7C

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Record center too damaged to hunt for arson evidence

Any possibility of finding physical evidence of arson at the Military Personnel Records Center in Overland, devastated by fire last week, was ruled out Thursday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Six FBI agents who spent the entire day Tuesday amid the rubble on the sixth floor of the immense structure found damage so complete that further examination would be pointless, Robert G. Kunkel, special agent in charge of the FBI office here, said in an interview.

**"THE ONLY WAY** we'll ever establish arson — if that's what it was — will be through interviews," Kunkel said.

He said more than 80 persons who were in or near the building when the fire started last Thursday have been questioned and more interviews are planned.

The fire centered on the top floor of the six-story building,

two blocks long and a block wide. The center held some 56 million files on armed forces personnel, about 20 million of them on the sixth floor.

"A thorough examination of the sixth floor disclosed virtually complete destruction, at least 85 per cent of the records destroyed and only a

small percentage of them partially salvageable," Kunkel said.

"We also located the probable original site of the fire," he said.

**"WE DETERMINED** that it started near the center of the building, at a point buried under tons of concrete and two to three feet of wet, charred rubble from burned records.

"Because of the collapse of the 10-inch-thick concrete roof in the area, a thorough examination for evidence of arson will not be possible.

"The original fire site is permanently inaccessible and will be demolished as the sixth floor is removed by heavy construction equipment."

The roof shifted seven inches Tuesday, Kunkel said, "and as of Tuesday night, people have been pretty much evacuated."

**HE NOTED THAT** the records center, larger in floor space than the Empire State Building and second only to the Pentagon in size, was doused with 50 million gallons of water during the fire, which raged out of control for two days.

Arson was considered a possibility because there have been about a dozen small fires in the building in the last two years, most of them started in wastebaskets, Kunkel noted.

Other possibilities being considered, he said, are accident, spontaneous combustion and electrical faults.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**P3, St. Louis Globe-Democrat, St. Louis, Missouri**

Date:

**7/20/73**

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: **SL**

☐ Being Investigated

52-4856163

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 20 1973	
ST. LOUIS	

b7C

XX

☐ Birth ☐ Credit ☒ Criminal ☐ Death ☐ INS ☐ Marriage\* ☐ Motor Vehicle ☐ Other ☐ Driver's License

To	<div></div>	Buded	<i>Special</i>
Return to		OCT 16 REC'D	File number 52-4856

Name and aliases of subject, applicant, or employee, and spouse

Addresses	<div></div>
-----------	-------------

Residence *L 5897 Lotus* b7C

Business

Former

\* Date and place of marriage  
(if applicable)

Race <i>N</i>	Sex <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Age <div></div>	Height <div></div>	Weight <div></div>	Hair <div></div>	Eyes <div></div>
Birth date <div></div>	Birthplace <i>MO</i>					
Arrest Number <div></div>	Fingerprint classification			Criminal specialty		

Specific information desired

Results of check

**SL City P.D.:**

SEE ATTACHED "COMPUTER" WANTED & ARREST CHECKS.

10-16-73 *WHE*

*No arrest record in file*

**SL County P.D.:**

SEE ATTACHED FD 125.

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI

**NO RECORD**

PER *782*

DATE *10-16-73*

*52-4856-174*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 19 1973	
FBI-ST. LOUIS	

RECORD OF INFORMATION FURNISHED OTHER AGENCIES

Orally \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ By Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ Written Communication 10/26/73 date \_\_\_\_\_

Information concerning:

**MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY (NPRC-M), 7/12/73; DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON**

Information furnished from File, Serial, and Page Number:

**SL 52-4856**

Information furnished was obtained:

- ☒ during course of Bureau investigation  
☐ from informants  
☐ from complainants or other sources

Information furnished to:

**GSA, Regional Office, Kansas City, Mo.**

Number of items disseminated: 2 reports

b7C

Remarks:

175

Special Agent

**2 - St. Louis (1- 66-2340 & 1- 52-4856)**

**DES:kmt**

**(2)**

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE

OFFICE OF ORIGIN

DATE

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

**ST. LOUIS**

**ST. LOUIS**

**10/26/73**

**10/12 - 10/25/73**

TITLE OF CASE

REPORT MADE

REPORT BY

SA

kmt

CHARACTER OF CASE

**MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL  
RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY  
(NPRC-M)  
7/12/73**

**DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON**

b7C

**REFERENCE: SL report of SA**

**10/17/73.**

- P -

## ADMINISTRATIVE:

It has not been possible to arrange for identification of [redacted] by [redacted] who gave subject a cigarette and a light at 11:00 P.M. on 7/11/73 inasmuch as [redacted] is on administrative leave. At such time as [redacted] is brought back to the Records Center for discharge procedures, arrangements will be made for [redacted] identification of the subject.

Investigative period overlaps that of last report to include original discussion of the case with the office of the U. S. Attorney.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED

NONE

ACQUIT-  
TALS

CASE WORK - CONT.

RECEIVED - CIVIL RIGHTS  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

REPORT MADE BY  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - USA, St. Louis
- 2 - GSA, Regional Office,  
Kansas City, Missouri
- 2 - St. Louis (52-4858)

176

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Notations

APPROVED

Request Recd.

Date Fwd.

How Fwd.

By

COVER PAGE

SL 52-4856

LEADS:

ST. LOUIS DIVISION

AT OVERLAND, MISSOURI

Will follow for prosecutive action.

Will arrange for identification of the subj<sup>b7C</sup>  
by

COVER PAGE

B\*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1- United States Attorney, St. Louis  
2- General Services Administration, Regional Office,  
Kansas City, Missouri

Report of: SA [REDACTED]  
Date: October 26, 1973

Office: ST. LOUIS

Field Office File #: SL 52-4856

Bureau File #:

Title:

[REDACTED]  
MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL  
RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M)  
JULY 12, 1973

Character: DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - POSSIBLE ARSON

b7C

Synopsis:

Results of interview of [REDACTED] a fellow employee of [REDACTED] set forth. [REDACTED] said that while [REDACTED] consistently slept on the job, he had no knowledge of any statements made by [REDACTED] admitting responsibility for the fire and cannot recall events of July 11, 1973. Facts of the matter discussed with office of the United States Attorney, Eastern District of Missouri, on October 12, 1973, October 22, 1973, and October 23, 1973. On the latter date two alternative courses of action described by Assistant United States Attorney involving administrative handling of [REDACTED] by General Services Administration and possible presentment of evidence to Federal Grand Jury on October 31, 1973.

- P -

**DETAILS:**

**AT OVERLAND, MISSOURI**



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

10/26/73

Date of transcription

[redacted] Missouri, telephone number [redacted] advised he is employed as a [redacted] at the National Personnel Records Center - Military Branch, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri.

[redacted] advised he was at work in the Records Center on July 11, 1973 on the 4:00 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. shift. [redacted] advised that he has no specific recollection of events on that night, except that he was doing his job as usual, cleaning the third floor restrooms. [redacted] said he does not want to state positively to having seen [redacted] at or near 11:00 P.M. on the night of July 11, 1973 as [redacted] was always passing by and conversing even though he, [redacted] paid little attention to him but continued his work. b7C

[redacted] said that if he had seen [redacted] it would not have been until sometime after 11:00 P.M. as [redacted] regularly could be found asleep in a soft chair at column J 19 on the third floor. [redacted] said this location was referred to by him as the "Laborers' Room" and that [redacted] would usually wake [redacted] up at that location at about 11:00 P.M. NOWEN [redacted] said he tried to "help" [redacted] to give him some guidance, but that [redacted] seemed to just "peter out" and go to sleep almost anywhere. [redacted] would try to do his work but soon he would sit down and go to sleep wherever he was working. [redacted] would remain asleep until a supervisor or someone else would reprimand him. [redacted] said it wouldn't be long before [redacted] was back to sleep again.

[redacted] said he has no recollection of [redacted] ever saying he had anything to do with starting the fire and that he has not worked near [redacted] very much since the fire.

He could furnish no other information.

Date dictated 10/25/73 at Overland, Missouri File # SL 32-4856

SA [redacted] kmt

10/26/73

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On October 12, 1973, the facts of this matter were preliminarily discussed with United States Attorney DONALD J. STOHR and Assistant United States Attorney TERRY I. ADELMAN, Eastern District of Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri. It was determined through review of all information available at that time including [redacted] signed statement, that insufficient evidence existed to authorize a complaint against the subject. Additional investigation was requested in the form of interviews of five persons to whom [redacted] made statements claiming responsibility for the fire, medical and educational background, and an investigative report incorporating all such investigation.

b7C

On October 22, 1973, this matter was discussed with United States Attorney DONALD J. STOHR who was in receipt of an Federal Bureau of Investigation report of investigation. STOHR indicated that a preliminary review of information contained in the report indicated that there is insufficient evidence against [redacted] to authorize prosecution. STOHR indicated that [redacted] statement, which describes the Records Center fire as starting from his negligent smoking, is not incriminating and that statements made to his fellow workers that he set the fire were not sufficiently strong so as to warrant initiation of criminal proceedings. STOHR advised that he wished to solicit the opinions of his staff as to a proper course of action to be taken in the matter and requested a follow-up contact.

On October 23, 1973, Assistant United States Attorney J. PATRICK GLYNN, Eastern District of Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that this matter had been assigned to him for review. He stated that two alternative courses of action have been determined, neither of which involves authorization for immediate filing of a complaint

SL 52-4856

and arrest of the subject. GLYNN said the two alternatives are referral to the General Services Administration for administrative action and presentation of evidence in this matter to a Federal Grand Jury for consideration in its investigative capacity. GLYNN explained that this procedure simply utilizes the investigative characteristics of a Federal Grand Jury and does not necessarily imply the seeking of a determination as to indictment. GLYNN stated that the first alternative, administrative handling by the General Services Administration, should be initiated through contact of appropriate General Services Administration officials by the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. GLYNN stated that depending on resulting necessities, a decision will be made as to whether presentation of the evidence in this matter should be made to the Federal Grand Jury convening on October 31, 1973.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) P DATE: 10/25/73

FROM :

SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT:

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL  
PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY BRANCH (NPRC-M)  
JULY 12, 1973  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON

On 10/17/73, a review was made of the personnel folder of [REDACTED] who is presently an employee of the United States Army Reserve Control Group, NPRC-M, SLMO. [REDACTED] DOB is shown as [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Ill; SSAN is [REDACTED] as appointed August 6, 1973, as a [REDACTED] grade one, maintenance and service worker. [REDACTED] home phone is [REDACTED] his address [REDACTED] MO, zip code [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] height is shown as 5'11", his weight 168 pounds. He is the holder of a Missouri chauffer's license. He attended the [REDACTED] Mo. His brother is identified as [REDACTED] USN, Norfolk, Va.

b7C

Former employers are shown as follows:

1/73 - Western Men, 819 Chestnut, SLMO  
1970 - 1973 - [REDACTED] for self  
5/63 - 7/70 - TRRA, 1800 Market, SLMO  
67-68 - Two used furniture stores  
59-60 - Chromcraft Corp., 11960 Westline, SLMO  
Summer, 1958 - Salem Pine and Pole, Salem, Mo.

[REDACTED] claimed the following residences:

4/72-12/72 - [REDACTED]

12/72-1/73 - [REDACTED]

1/73- [REDACTED]

2- 52-4856

2- 46-NEW [REDACTED]

DRS:cw

(4)

b7C

SL 52-4856

The following marriages and divorces are listed:

[redacted] date of marriage [redacted]  
at St. Louis, Mo., divorced in [redacted]

[redacted] date of marriage, [redacted] at St.  
Louis, Mo., divorced in [redacted]

[redacted] served in the U.S. Army 2/61 to 2/63  
under serial number [redacted] Selective Service number is  
[redacted] Home of record at time of entry in the  
service is shown as [redacted] Mo. He  
earned an "expert" rifle badge and expert with the .45  
caliber pistol. Blood group is "O".

b7C

On 10/19/73 [redacted] FDS SLMO  
advised that [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

LEADS:

ST. LOUIS

AT ST. LOUIS

Will request credit and criminal

AT NPRC-M

Will request military record.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS	11/5/73	10/31/73
TITLE OF CASE		SA	vls
MAJOR FIRE NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER MILITARY BRANCH (NPRC-M) 7/12/73		CHARACTER OF CASE DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON	

REFERENCE: Report of SA [redacted] at St. Louis dated 10/26/73.

b7C

- C -

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Due to failure of the FGJ to indict [redacted] on 10/31/73, and since it is not presently likely that [redacted] will be returned to the records center for discharge procedures, and since [redacted] identification of [redacted] would not bear directly on [redacted] responsibility for the captioned fire, no further attempts are being made to attempt to arrange for an identification of [redacted] by [redacted] and case is considered closed.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED	NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN
FILED	FILED	FILED	FILED
FILED	FILED	FILED	FILED

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

-179

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - USA, St. Louis
- 2 - GSA Regional Office  
Kansas City, Missouri
- 1 - St. Louis (52-4856)

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

## Dissemination Record of Attached Report

## Notations

Agency

Request Recd.

Date Fwd.

How Fwd.

By

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - United States Attorney, St. Louis, Missouri  
2 - General Services Administration, Regional Office,  
Kansas City, Missouri

Report of:

SA [REDACTED]

Office:

ST. LOUIS

Date:

NOVEMBER 5, 1973

b7C

Field Office File #:

SL 52-4856

Bureau File #:

Title:

MAJOR FIRE, NATIONAL PERSONNEL  
RECORDS CENTER - MILITARY (NPRC-M)  
JULY 12, 1973

Character:

DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - POSSIBLE ARSON

Synopsis:

Facts of case presented to Federal Grand Jury,  
EDMO, SLMO, 10/31/73. A "no true bill" was returned.

- C -

**DETAILS: AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

On October 31, 1973, facts of this matter were presented to the Federal Grand Jury in the Eastern District of Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri. A "no true bill" was returned.

11/6/73

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) C  
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

MAJOR FIRE  
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER -  
MILITARY BRANCH  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
7/12/73  
DGP - POSSIBLE ARSON

Re report of SA [REDACTED] dated 10/17/73.

For information of Bureau, TERRY GENE DAVIS, who in interview set forth in referenced report furnished strongest information implicating [REDACTED] in captioned fire, discovered dead 8:30 PM, 11/5/73. It appeared DAVIS victim of suicide. DAVIS who resides [REDACTED] at NPRC-M, [REDACTED] in a secluded rural setting, had not reported for work since 10/30/73. [REDACTED] stated he had not seen DAVIS at home since that time even though lights had been left on in DAVIS' cabin. At about 8:30 PM, 11/5/73, [REDACTED] looked into DAVIS' window and observed his corpse with a shotgun propped between his legs and the majority of his head blown away. b7C

Subsequent investigation determined DAVIS killed himself with a 16 guage pump shotgun after having left the following note:

2- Bureau  
1- St. Louis  
DRS:cw  
(3)

180  
PMA 8-11-73



"There just isn't any point to any of this. Nobody gives a damn and never has. Blame it on dope. Blame it on parents. But people \*\*\* are the cause of all the \_\_\_\_\_ in the world. All I ever needed was to know that somebody gave a damn about anything to do with me.

"Where is truth? Where is love? Where is anything that is real? Thank you KADI. Thank you KSHE. Thank you humanity."

Mention of KADI and KSHE are apparent references to local radio stations emphasizing rock and roll type music. DAVIS' main ambition in the world was to become a star rock and roll performer.

Coroner's report estimates date of death as 11/1/73, as judged by state of decomposition of the body and reports that he had been seen alive prior to that time.

DAVIS was honorably discharged from the U.S. Coast Guard 11/23/71, due to psychiatric difficulties involving depression and anxiety. Fellow workers at the record center indicated DAVIS had been periodically depressed since long prior to the fire at the records center. Within the last two weeks DAVIS had been involved in a minor accident with his car, was arrested on his motorcycle in a prohibited wildlife area and had been disturbed over his relationship with his parents. DAVIS had also broken off with his girlfriend who had been living with him on 10/27/73. She returned on 10/29/73, for her personal belongings and declined to remain with DAVIS at his request but "on his terms". DAVIS' girlfriend claimed that DAVIS was injecting "speed".

DAVIS' friends and working associates at the record center deny he was particularly concerned or upset over events involving the record center fire and that his death would most likely have nothing to do with the [redacted] investigation or the fire itself. DAVIS' friends indicated he may have planned his own death over considerable period of time as he felt "possessed of a demon" and told them he had been "seeing and feeling things" that they could not understand. While DAVIS exhibited certain elements of instability to his friends, he generally

b7C

SL 52-4856

appeared highly intelligent and of otherwise normal characteristics. Above data set forth for information of Bureau and no further investigation is being conducted in this matter by the St. Louis Division.

12/10/74

Exception to 11-202  
Approved by Bureau of 11-202 b7C

11-10

DIAGNOSES (List and number in order of clinical importance; all entries except the last should be preceded by the letter "X" before the one diagnosis responsible for the major part of the patient's stay.)

...fully would  
months supply of me  
patient.

HOSPITAL SUMMARY  
#3

b7C

SUMMARY (Brief statement should include, if applicable, history, pertinent physical findings, course in hospital, treatment given, condition at discharge, date patient can resume pre-hospital activity, recommendations for follow-up treatment, medications furnished at discharge, and com-

SERIALIZED

FILED

1974

11-10

b7C

52-4856-181  
52-4856-182  
replied to  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
MAR 29 1974  
FBI  
[signature]

b7C



## THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

P. O. Drawer 8  
Central Station  
St. Louis, Mo. 63188

March 29, 1974

Mr. Robert G. Kunkel, SAC  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
1520 Market Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63177

Attn: SA [REDACTED]

Dear Sir:

Attached are the documents, which SA [REDACTED] of this office  
discussed with you on March 29, 1974.

Poor quality of the copy makes it almost impossible to determine  
whether the subject's name is [REDACTED] Should the  
[REDACTED] written on the hospital summary properly identify this  
individual, it would be appreciated if you would furnish this office  
with the correct name.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

b7C

OSCAR G. WEISHEIT, JR.  
Acting Special Agent In Charge

Attachments

182

52-4856-113

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 29 1974	

[REDACTED]



Post Office Box 7251, Main Station  
St. Louis, Missouri 63177  
April 3, 1974

Mr. Robert E. Lilley  
Special Agent in Charge  
Department of the Treasury  
United States Secret Service  
P.O. Drawer 8  
Central Station  
St. Louis, Missouri 63188

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of March 28, 1974 in which you request the correct identity of [redacted] or [redacted]

For your information, this individual has been identified as [redacted] Date and Place of Birth [redacted] at Chicago, Illinois. [redacted] served in the United States Marine Corp between November of 1943 and May of 1946 under Serial Number [redacted] It has not yet been determined whether [redacted] is correct for [redacted]

b7C

For your additional information, a Marine Corp record is on file for Hay at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, which will furnish you with complete details of [redacted] military service, including [redacted]

Thank you for referring this matter to us.

Very truly yours,

WESLEY T. WHALEY  
Special Agent in Charge

1 - Addressee  
1 - St. Louis (52-4856)  
DRS:dlv  
(2)

52-4856-184  
143  
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

4/3/74

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, LITTLE ROCK  
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) (P)  
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Major Fire, National Personnel Records Center,  
(Military Branch)  
Overland, Missouri  
7/12/74  
DGP  
OO: ST. LOUIS

b7C

For information of Little Rock, captioned individual furnished a signed statement indicating that he had carelessly smoked and disposed of a cigarette in an area where the records center fire first broke out, just before the fire was discovered. For further information of Little Rock in covering the lead set forth in this matter [REDACTED]

On 3/29/74, Acting Chief of Police RAY PORSEHEL, Overland, Mo., telephonically advised he had received via St. Louis County Police Department information that they had received a long-distance telephone call from [REDACTED] Ark., telephone [REDACTED] who furnished the following:

There is a woman named [REDACTED] who resides in [REDACTED] Ark., and who at the time of the fire resided in [REDACTED] Mo. While residing in [REDACTED]

One of these men, name [REDACTED] unknown, worked as a [REDACTED] employee at the FEC at the time of the fire. [REDACTED] is now talking that he knows who started this fire. 184  
52-4856-785

2 - Little Rock  
② - St. Louis  
DRS:dly  
(4) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SL 52-4856

On 4/2/74 [redacted] Custodial Employees NFPC-M advised there were no persons of either Korean or Oriental extraction working at the records center at the time of the fire, and that there are none employed at this time.

LEAD

LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

b7C

AT GANALIXL, ARKANSAS

Will locate and interview [redacted] for the purpose of developing all information in her possession regarding the fire, and the identity of the unknown Korean.

Expeditious handling is requested due to the magnitude of loss incurred to the Government by the fire, and the potential for publicity which matters pertaining to the fire generate.



4/2/74

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) P

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]  
MAJOR FIRE AT NPMC-M  
7/12/73  
DGP  
OO: SL

b7C

Enclosed for the Memphis Division is one copy each of two communications received by the St. Louis Division of the FBI, and the St. Louis Office of the Secret Service.

The communications represent a portion of the military service record of [REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED] at Chicago, Ill. As the envelopes show, these documents were mailed from Nashville, Tenn.

b7C

Notations made on these documents are presumably by [REDACTED] but how he [REDACTED] is not known. It is known that [REDACTED] served in the U.S. Marine Corps between November of 1943 and May of 1946 under USMC serial number [REDACTED] during his period of service.

While it is not conceivable that [REDACTED] had anything to do with the fire at the National Military Records Center, his repeated references to that fire require he be interviewed regarding any knowledge he may have of the fire.

2 - Memphis (End. 2)

2 - St. Louis

DRS:ck

(4)

185

SL 52-4856

During interview [ ] should be counseled regarding his inappropriate remarks about the FBI and the records center fire which for information of Memphis, has in all likelihood been solved.

Expeditious handling is requested due to the magnitude of loss to the Government, and publicity potential which this case represents.

b7C

LEADS

THE MEMPHIS DIVISION:

AT NASHVILLE, TENN.:

Will locate and interview [ ] regarding any knowledge he may have of the records under fire and determine how he came into possession of [ ]

Will check indices and the crank box for any local background data on [ ]

2

CL. 44 NO

b7C

~~VAN, AMERICAN LAKE, WY.~~  
was given Place ICDA CODE

was given	Place	ICDA CODE
-----------	-------	-----------

b7C

## HOSPITAL SUMMARY

RECEIVED  
U.S. SECRET SERVICE  
MAR 29 2 12 PM '74  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

52-4856-186

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1974	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	
M	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) P DATE: 3/29/74  
(ATTN: SA [REDACTED])

FROM : SPVR [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: UNSUB;  
MAJOR FIRE AT NPRC - M  
SLMO  
DGP

On 3/29/74, Acting Chief of Police RAY POESHEL, Overland, Mo., telephonically advised as follows:

He had received via SL County PD information that the County had received a long-distance telephone call from [REDACTED] Baxter County, Ark., telephone 501-425-6222, the following:

There is a woman named [REDACTED] who resides in [REDACTED] Ark., and who at the time of the fire resided in [REDACTED] Mo. While residing in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7C

- LEAD -

## THE ST. LOUIS DIVISION

### AT ST. LOUIS, MO.

Ascertain the residence of [REDACTED] in Arkansas; have her interviewed; identify [REDACTED] and interview re his knowledge of the fire.

1 - St. Louis  
RLB:bak  
(1) *bak*



52-4856-182

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1974	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

[REDACTED]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

DATE: 5/20/74

FROM : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (52-3029) (RUC)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Major Fire, National Personnel  
Records Center,  
(Military Branch)  
Overland, Missouri  
7/12/73  
DGP  
OO: SL

b7C

Re St. Louis airtel to Little Rock, 4/3/74.

SA [REDACTED] following investigation was conducted by  
[REDACTED] at Gamaliel, Arkansas, on 5/2/74:

b7C

[REDACTED] telephone [REDACTED] formerly a  
resident of [REDACTED] Missouri,  
advised that [REDACTED] who presently resides  
at the foregoing address, was employed at the National Personnel  
Records Center as well as another [REDACTED] who  
has subsequently been transferred. [REDACTED]

On numerous occasions comments were made by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] relating to the treatment he received by coworkers at  
the Personnel Records Center, specifically complaints of treat-  
ment by Negro employees who would interfere with [REDACTED]  
assigned duties.

[REDACTED] related that the only information she  
had concerning the Personnel Records Center would have been  
information she received from [REDACTED] and specifically she  
possessed no information as to the identity of anyone who  
would be responsible for the destruction of the center nor  
does she know any [REDACTED] She stated emphatically  
that she afforded room and/or board to [REDACTED]

2 - St. Louis  
1 - Little Rock  
JDK/bng  
(3)



52-4856-128

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 23 1974	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

LR 52-3029

On 5/3/74, [redacted]  
Baxter County Sheriff's Office, Mountain Home, Arkansas,  
was contacted concerning the information he initially  
developed from [redacted] at which time [redacted] admitted  
that the reference to the Korean men were his characterizations  
of individuals referred to by [redacted] and that he was unable  
to recall anything further stated by her which would be of  
assistance in this matter.

b7C

It is noted that [redacted] was interviewed at  
length and it is believed the information previously furnished  
by [redacted] is in error. ~~However~~ St. Louis might  
desire to cause an interview of [redacted] in that any infor-  
mation possessed by [redacted] would have been obtained  
through [redacted]

5/23/74

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (52-3648)(P)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]  
MAJOR FIRE AT NPROC - M  
7/12/73  
DGP  
OO: SL

Re St. Louis airtel to Memphis, 4/2/74.

b7C

For information of receiving offices, St. Louis Division forwarded to Memphis communications directed to the St. Louis FBI Office and the Secret Service, from one [REDACTED] born [REDACTED] at Chicago, Illinois. These documents were mailed from Nashville, Tennessee and contained derogatory remarks concerning the FBI and the Government in general. Notations made on the documents were made presumably by [REDACTED] and how he came into possession of [REDACTED] is unknown. [REDACTED] served in the U. S. Marine Corps during November, 1943 and May, 1946 under USMC serial number [REDACTED] c

Efforts to locate [REDACTED] at Nashville, Tenn., have been negative.

2-San Francisco  
2-Seattle  
②-St. Louis (52-4856)  
3-Memphis  
HH:bc  
(9)

52-4856-189

*mel*  
*R*

*1024*



ME 52-3648

On various dates in April and May, 1974, checks of the Central Records Division, Nashville PD have been made concerning him with negative results. Credit Bureau records are not available in checks of this type.

On 5/17/74, a source in the Veterans Administration, Nashville, Tennessee (PROTECT) advised in confidence that [redacted] veteran file is located in the San Francisco Office of the VA under number [redacted]

LEADS:

SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

[redacted] Will, at the VA, review file [redacted] concerning [redacted] and advise of current location.

SEATTLE DIVISION

AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Will check records of the VA Hospital at American Lake, Washington concerning [redacted] under VA number [redacted]

b7C

MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT MURFREESBORO, TENN.

[redacted] Will recheck VA Hospital for [redacted] under number [redacted]

AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Will continue efforts to locate [redacted]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, St. Louis (52-4856) (P) DATE: 5-31-74

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Major Fire NPREC-M  
7-12-73  
DGP  
O.O. SL

b7C

On 5-31-74 [REDACTED]

Maintenance Personnel, NPREC-M, 9700  
Page, St. Louis, Mo. 'advised he has  
developed no new information regarding  
any employees of the records center,  
custodial or otherwise, of Korean  
extraction. Smith stated he doubts the  
veracity of the information pertaining  
to Koreans being involved in the fire.

[REDACTED] said he knows nothing  
depository regarding [REDACTED] who  
remains employed at the center. 52-4856-170

Lead:

St. Louis  
at Overland



Post  
SRH

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 31 1974	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

F B I

Date: 6/5/74

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel

Airmail

(Priority)

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (52-3648) (RUC)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

MAJOR FIRE AT NPRC - M  
7/12/73  
DGP  
00: St. Louis

Re Memphis airtel to San Francisco, 5/23/74.

All offices disregard investigation pending re  
[REDACTED] born [REDACTED] at Chicago, Illinois.

On 5/31/74, [REDACTED] Medical  
Administration, Veterans Administration Hospital (VAH),  
Murfreesboro, Tenn., advised that [REDACTED] SSAN [REDACTED]  
1811, VA Claim # 13813543, was a patient at the VAH,  
Murfreesboro, from 1/24/64 to 6/3/64 and from 7/30/64 to  
12/2/64 and has not been a patient there since that time.  
Records indicate that [REDACTED] VA file was forwarded to the VAH,  
San Francisco, Cal., in 1972.

b7C

Records at VAH, Murfreesboro, are very incomplete  
but indicate that [REDACTED] has been a patient [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] over the past years and has  
been writing letters to various government officials, both  
Federal and state, for the past 10 years or more. The most  
recent correspondence in the file at Murfreesboro is a letter

- ② - St. Louis
  - 2 - San Francisco
  - 2 - Seattle
  - 1 - Memphis
- HH/nkt  
(7)

52-4856-111  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
JUN 10 1974

Approved:

TLC  
[Signature]

Sent

M Per

ME 52-3648

from [redacted] to Congressman [redacted] dated 3/23/74, in which [redacted] This letter enclosed for [redacted] the same VA forms which were previously mailed by [redacted] to the St. Louis Office. This letter is signed by [redacted] and gives address as [redacted] [redacted] Tennessee, telephone [redacted]

The VAH records at Murfreesboro also indicate that, as of 12/7/72, [redacted]  
[redacted]

On June 3, 1974, [redacted]  
[redacted] Tenn. was contacted by SA [redacted]  
[redacted] and [redacted] at which time she advised that she is the mother of [redacted] whom she described as having been born [redacted] Illinois. b7C  
She described him as a white male, 6', 270 lbs., hair blond and very short. She advised that her son is [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] is a constant letter writer. He has been in and out of Veterans Hospitals and is currently under the care of a doctor in Nashville [redacted]

[redacted] She advised that government agencies should not even acknowledge her son's letters as he is a constant letter writer and imagines things. She advised that he has been very upset about Watergate and recently a representative of the Secret Service talked to her about him.

[redacted] advised that her son [redacted] left Nashville about a week ago and she has no idea where he is at the present, but she advised that he goes away for trips of this type and she generally will hear from him in a month or two from some distant location. She advised that she had no idea where he was now. She advised that her son did [redacted]

[redacted] She was amused that the Federal Government would even want to talk to him because he is such a prolific letter writer [redacted]  
[redacted]

In view of the above, no further action being taken by Memphis and this matter is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : FILE (52-4856)

DATE: 6/26/74

FROM : SAC [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

b7C

MAJOR FIRE AT NPROC-M

7/12/73

DGP

OO: St. Louis

Today, [REDACTED] Post-Dispatch reporter, visited the SAC to shake hands and to discuss instant case. He specifically wanted to know if we had identified any suspects or whether I could say the fire was accidental or caused by arson. I told him that since we had not obtained an indictment or an arrest warrant, I of course could not identify any suspects but that no information had been developed that the fire was caused by arson.

For record purposes.

WTW:pln

(1) *hen*

52-4856-192

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 26 1974	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

*WTW*



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

DATE: 7/18/74

FROM : SAC, SEATTLE (52-10737) (RUC)


SUBJECT: 





MAJOR FIRE AT NPRC - M  
7/12/73

DGP

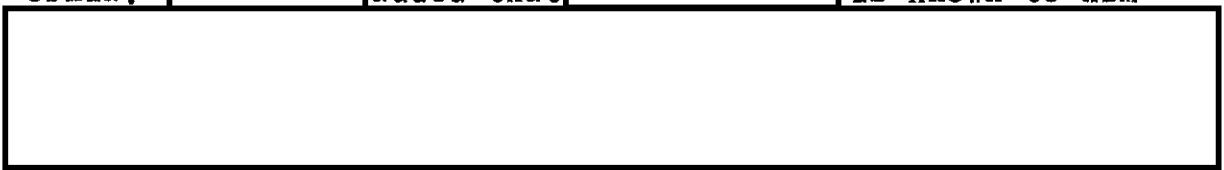
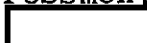
OO: ST. LOUIS

Re Memphis airtel to San Francisco, dated 5/23/74.

On 6/28/74, 

 American Lake Veterans Hospital Tacoma Washington, advised that the file on  is currently not in the files of American Lake Hospital but has been transferred to VA Hospital in San Francisco, California.  added that  is known to him

b7C


  
is a prolific letter writer, writing governors, congressmen, local law enforcement agencies and any other address  should come in contact with.

In view of the above information, no further investigation is being conducted by this Division.

- ② - St. Louis (52-4856)
- 1 - Memphis (52-3648) (Info)
- 1 - Seattle (52-10737)

CJW:ecf  
(4)

52-4856-193

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 22 1974	
	



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) (P)

DATE: 7-30-74

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

MAJOR FURIE AT NPRC-M

7-12-73

DGP

O.O. St. Louis

SL Airtel to LR 4-3-74; LR let to SL dated 5-20-74

DN 7-29-74 [REDACTED] WAS INTERVIEWED AT  
NPRC-C REGARDING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE FIRE AS  
DESCRIBED IN REFERENCED COMMUNICATIONS.

INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] VERIFIED THAT THE ORIGINAL  
INFORMATION WAS EXAGGERATED AND INACCURATE, AND THAT

[REDACTED] KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE FIRE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND GIVEN TO EXCESSIVE TALKING WITHOUT BASIS  
IN FACT. b7C

FD 302 HAS BEEN DICTATED REGARDING INTERVIEW  
OF [REDACTED]

INASMUCH AS NO INVESTIGATION REMAINS OUTSTANDING  
IN THIS MATTER, AND THERE ARE HEADS TO BE  
COVERED IN ST. LOUIS, IT IS RECOMMENDED THIS CASE  
BE CLOSED UPON RECEIPT OF INVESTIGATION FROM  
SAN FRANCISCO.

1-52-4856

DRG



~~POST~~

52-4856-194

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 31 1974	
[REDACTED]	

OS

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/2/74

[redacted] telephone number [redacted] was interviewed. He was immediately advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, the nature of the interview, and that anything he said could be used in a court of law.

[redacted] advised that he knows nothing about the fire at the military records center in July of 1973. He said he discussed the matter with his mother when he visited her in Arkansas last spring, but never told her that he knew anything about how the fire got started.

[redacted] said he heard a lot of talk that the fire started from someone smoking in the files. He said that prior to the fire he frequently observed people smoking in the file areas and that he advised them, as well as [redacted] that that should not be done.

[redacted] was described through observation and interview as follows:

Race:  
Date of birth:  
Place of birth:  
Height:  
Weight:  
Eyes:  
Hair:  
Foster mother:  
Natural parents:

[redacted]  
[redacted] Ill.  
5'8"  
135  
Brown  
Black  
[redacted]  
Unknown

b7C

Interviewed on 7/29/74 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 52-4856 -195  
by [redacted] cw Date dictated 7/29/74



SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

9/30/74

SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) (P)

[REDACTED]  
MAJOR FIRE AT NPREC-M  
7/12/73  
DGP

OO: St. Louis

Re Memphis airtel to San Francisco, 5/23/74; and  
Seattle letter to St. Louis dated 7/18/74, copy attached.

Enclosed for San Francisco is one copy of referenced  
Seattle letter to St. Louis which indicates that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] VA File Number [REDACTED] is located at the VA Hospital,  
San Francisco, California.

Inasmuch as the only investigation outstanding in  
this matter is review of the above VA File, San Francisco  
is requested to expedite coverage of its lead set forth in  
referenced Memphis airtel.

b7C

*Assign to*



*PHS*

*JFH*

*57  
JFH*

*196*

2-San Francisco (Enc. 1)  
2-St. Louis  
DRS:dan  
(4)



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856)

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (52-18349) (RUC)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

MAJOR FIRE AT  
NPRC - M  
7/12/73  
DGP  
OO: ST. LOUIS

DATE: 11/21/74

Re letter from St. Louis to San Francisco, dated 9/30/74, and letter from Memphis to St. Louis, dated 6/5/74.

[REDACTED] San Francisco discontinued investigation on [REDACTED] per instructions in second referenced letter. On 11/6/74, [REDACTED] medical records at Veteran's Administration Hospital, San Francisco, California, advised that she was unable to locate any record concerning [REDACTED]. She advised that perhaps the Veteran's Administration Regional Office might be able to locate a file on [REDACTED].

b7C

On 11/13/74, [REDACTED] Veteran's Administration Regional Office, 211 Main Street, San Francisco advised that she was unable to locate any file in the office under the name [REDACTED] with above SSAN and Veteran's Administration file claim number. On the same day, [REDACTED] advised that she ran [REDACTED] number through the computer locator and it indicated that the file of [REDACTED] can be located at the Nashville Regional Office, United States Courthouse, 801 Broadway, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

Inasmuch as St. Louis has obtained partial records [REDACTED] San Francisco is leaving them the discretion of setting out further leads to locate the file of [REDACTED]

② - St. Louis  
1 - San Francisco  
JWR:klc  
(3)



52-4856-197

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 27 1974	
[REDACTED]	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) C

DATE: 1/10/75

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

MAJOR FIRE AT NPROC-M  
7/12/73  
DGP  
OO: SL

b7C

Review of the above captioned investigation reveals that an admission of having set the fire was obtained from subject, a custodial worker at NPROC-M and that appropriate discussion was held with the U. S. Attorney concerning obtaining an indictment. U. S. Attorney indicated that due to [REDACTED] prosecution was unlikely. Evidence obtained during the investigation was presented by the U. S. Attorney to a federal grand jury on 10/31/73. The federal grand jury failed to vote an indictment, however, and investigation was closed. File was reopened upon receipt of a portion of a military service record of [REDACTED] of Nashville, Tennessee who referred to the fire and a lead to interview him was set out. A check of his military record showed that he served in the U. S. Marine Corps 11/43 to 5/46 and [REDACTED] during his period of service. The Memphis Division interviewed [REDACTED] mother, [REDACTED] Tennessee who expressed surprise that the Federal government would want to talk to [REDACTED]. She advised that [REDACTED] and that he was a constant letter writer and [REDACTED]. She said he has been in and out of Veterans Hospitals and was currently under care of [REDACTED] for high blood pressure [REDACTED] American Lake Veterans Hospital, Tacoma, Washington, advised that [REDACTED] a prolific letter writer who wrote Governors, Congressmen, Law Enforcement Agencies and any other address he came in contact with.

In view of the condition of [REDACTED] no further inquiry is being made and this case is being closed.

b7C

1- St. Louis

RTH/cw



5010-108-02

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FBI - SAINT LOUIS

52-4856-198

cks  
Case  
2

destroy  
10-2-75

1500 East Bannister Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64114

August 17, 1976

[redacted]  
[redacted] Missouri [redacted]

b7C

Dear [redacted]

Special Agent [redacted] of our St. Louis Office has advised me that you telephoned him on Wednesday evening, August 11, 1976. In that conversation you advised that you are in a position to name the person who "set" the fire at the Military Personnel Records Center in 1973. You also made mention of an impending fire.

Please be advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has investigative jurisdiction over the matters to which you make reference. I strongly suggest that if you have any information in your possession regarding any form of arson, attempted arson, or any plans for such arson, you contact the St. Louis Office of the FBI immediately. I have notified the FBI of the substance of your phone call to Special Agent [redacted]

Sincerely,

PAUL W. McELLIOTT  
Director  
Field Investigations Office  
Kansas City

cc:  
FBI - St. Louis

5274852-199

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 17 1976	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

b7C

FEB 67 62-0-17756

JAN 67 149-116-179

I-56 70-0-145

12/75 62-0-17756

9-62 44-445-6

JUL 1976 66-2722Sub-II  
19

5/75 66-2704-Sub1

Desc

Mo.

On August 11, 1976, I received a telephone call at my residence from a person identifying himself as [redacted] from McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft Corporation and former Civil Servant. The call was received at about 7:00 p.m. and lasted about 15 minutes. [redacted] advised that he had received a copy of the FBI report on the 1973 fire at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri from some source via his rights under the Freedom of Information Act. [redacted] indicated that he had read the report and in his opinion, it was inconclusive and was an FBI "cover-up" of a serious attempt at Arson by political figures that wanted records of some unspecified nature (I think tapes were mentioned) destroyed. [redacted] also mentioned that a person named [redacted] (sp?) of the General Accounting Office, was not satisfied with the FBI investigation (I think this may have come from the FBI report that he supposedly had). [redacted] stated that he had been attempting to get a copy of the GSA report on the fire but did not indicate what means or channel he was using to get the report. [redacted] said that he had retired from McDonnell-Douglas after [redacted] years of employment and that he had been devoting most of his time to "investigating" the Military Personnel Record Center fire since his retirement since it (the fire) was similar to one the occurred at another Federal (I think VA was mentioned) building some years past and he was sure that the fires was set by the same person. He also mentioned an impending fire but did not specify A location. He stated that he had talked with GSA Special Agent [redacted] some time in the Spring of 1976 and that [redacted] had told him to contact him when he [redacted] had more information. [redacted] felt that he now had this information and had attempted to contact [redacted] and was furnished my name by [redacted] at National Personnel Records Center, Civilian Personnel Records, St. Louis, Missouri. [redacted] indicated that he was now in a position to name the person that has "set" the fire at the Military Personnel Records Center and that he wanted to talk to a GSA Agent about it. [redacted] stated that an interview would take about two (2) hours and he was agreeable to any meeting place as long as he was able to tape the interview so he would be correctly quoted in any report. I asked few if any questions about the nature of the information he could furnish. I advised him that it was not GSA policy to interfere in an other investigative agencies investigation or to question their findings. I also said that as far as I personally was concerned the FBI report was the final word on the cause of the fire. I advised him that I would consult higher authority regarding a possible interview and return his call as soon as I had an opinion on the matter. b7C

52-4852-200

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 19 1976	
<div data-bbox="1068 260 1318 386"></div>	
UIS	
Fm b7C	

[redacted] advised me that he was staying in [redacted] Missouri and he intended to stay in the area until he heard from me. He appeared to be very knowledgeable of the Records Center fire was very articulate, deliberate in his speech. He did not sound emotional or excited. b7C

[redacted]  
Special Agent



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

1500 East Bannister Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64131



August 17, 1976

Harlan C. Phillips  
Special Agent-in-Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Rm 2704, 1520 Market Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

Dear Mr. Phillips:


Attached is a copy of a "Memorandum for Record" regarding a telephone call received by Special Agent [redacted] of our St. Louis Office from [redacted] Missouri. Also attached is a copy of my letter to [redacted] in response to his telephone call.

It would appear from the remarks made by [redacted] that he may have had prior contact with your office or FBI Headquarters.

b7C





I have advised Special Agent [redacted] of this referral. If any further information is received by Special Agent [redacted] he will be in direct contact with your office.

Sincerely,

  
PAUL W. McELLIOTT  
Director  
Field Investigations Office  
Kansas City

Enclosure 

52-4856-201

SEARCHED 	INDEXED 
SERIALIZED 	FILED 
AUG 19 1976	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

leo  
A

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

1500 East Bannister Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64131



August 30, 1976

Harlan C. Phillips  
Special Agent-in-Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Rm 2704, 1520 Market Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Reference is made to my letter dated August 17, 1976, regarding  
[redacted] Attached is a copy of a letter dated August 22,  
1976, from [redacted]

If any further information is received, we will be in contact  
with your office.

Sincerely,

PAUL W. McELLIOTT  
Director  
Field Investigations Office  
Kansas City

b7C

Enclosure

9/3  
Bm 9/3/76  
[initials]

52-4856-202

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1976	
[redacted]	
RSD	

Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds

[redacted]  
August 22, 1976

Mr. Paul W. McElliot, Director  
Field Investigations Office  
General Services Administration  
1500 East Bannister Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64114

Dear Mr. McElliot:

Reference is made to your letter of August 17, 1976.

In my telephone conversation with GSA Special Agent [redacted] August 11, 1976, I told him that I had information relating to the fire at the Military Records Center, Overland, Missouri, July 11/12, 1973, and that I would give him this information on condition that I would be permitted to record the interview from beginning to end.

[redacted] said that he thought that the GSA might be unwilling to conduct an interview under such conditions. He promised, however, that he would relay my proposal to you and that you would write me. Your letter, rather than accepting my proposal, is fully devoted to a discussion that I had with GSA Special Agent [redacted] May 19, 1976. b7C

An unsolicited inquiry which I have received from a Member of Congress who appears to have an interest in the matter - in addition to information which he did not describe - indicates a good possibility that you may be called upon in the course of a Congressional hearing to explain why GSA is unwilling to permit the recording of an interview relating to the fire.

The FBI and the Department of Justice have established a pattern of deceit in their investigation of the fire. I cannot understand GSA's willingness to become involved in the deceit. I have even had lying from your [redacted] But perhaps deceit is being used in an effort to avoid involvement in deceit.

My offer to [redacted] which I am certain was relayed to you, is hereby withdrawn.

Very truly yours,  
[redacted]

DIRECTOR, FBI

9/1/76

SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) p

[REDACTED]  
MAJOR FIRE AT WPRC-M  
7/12/73  
DGP  
OO: SL

By letter dated 8/17/76, [REDACTED] Field Investigations, Kansas City, Missouri, General Services Administration (GSA) advised that Special Agent [REDACTED] of the GSA St. Louis Office received a telephone call from one [REDACTED] Missouri on 8/11/76 concerning captioned matter in which he said he was in a position to name the person who "set" the fire.

b7C

[REDACTED] enclosed a copy of [REDACTED] report as well as [REDACTED] reply to [REDACTED] xerox copies of which are enclosed herewith.

Indices of the St. Louis Division disclose that [REDACTED] Mo., has had voluminous correspondence with the St. Louis Division, and complaints in other matters have been received by the Bureau over a number of years, specific reference is made to the following:

Little Rock letter to Bureau 2/5/63 (with enclosures);

Busairtel 11/30/60 (with enclosure); and

Little Rock letter 12/27/55, all captioned [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] INFORMATION CONCERNING" (Criminal Section), Bufile [REDACTED]

Bulet to New York 2/1/63, captioned [REDACTED]  
Former Special Agent";

2- Bureau  
1- St. Louis  
RTH/cw  
(3)  
w

*Close*  
*Do not destroy*

52-4856-203

*glw*  
*glw*

10/7/76 *glw*

[REDACTED]

*RTH*

SL 52-4856

Report of SA [REDACTED] St. Louis,  
9/7/62, entitled "UNSUBS (2). Officers Florissant, Missouri  
Police Department; [REDACTED] - VICTIM; CIVIL  
RIGHTS", with which there were transmitted as enclosures  
copies of a letterhead memorandum setting out some of the  
background concerning [REDACTED]

b7C

No further action is being taken in this matter.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-,

DATE: 8/11/80

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
CONCERNING FIRE AT NATIONAL  
PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER,  
9700 PAGE, SLMO, 1973

52-4856

Instant date this office was contacted by police officer [REDACTED] PAGEDALE PD, tel no. 726-1200. [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] CONNOR DETECTIVE AGENCY located 7201 PAGE, PAGEDALE, MO., 63130. On 8/9/80 [REDACTED] received in the mail a letter from [REDACTED] TX., tel no. [REDACTED]. The letter contained four pages and a small note. The letter mentioned on more than one occasion a reference to the fire at the military records center in 1973. It further talked about politics etc.

Police officer [REDACTED] advised that he resides at [REDACTED] tel no. [REDACTED] and that he will be working the 7 am - 3 pm shift 8/12/80, with the letter in his possession. [REDACTED] further advised that the letter came to his old address [REDACTED] but moved from that location in January 1980.

b7C

Officer [REDACTED] was advised that the FBI would recontact him and make arrangements to pick up the letter.

Based on what writer heard over the telephone concerning the letter it could not be determined if the information was of any value to the FBI.

Information purposes.

Re  
O  
+  
A  
52A

52-4856-204

SERIALIZED	FILED
SEARCHED	INDEXED
AUG 11 1980	
LOUIS	



5010-110

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (52-4856) (C)

DATE: 8/18/80

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
CONCERNING FIRE AT  
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER,  
9700 PAGE, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 1973

b7C

On 8/11/80 a letter written [REDACTED] to  
O'Conner Detective and Security was secured from [REDACTED]  
Pagedale PD.

A review of the letter indicates that the author is  
mentally disturbed and no further action is recommended.

The letter has been made a part of the 1-A section  
of the file.

1 - St. Louis

PPJ/lsh

(1)

52-4856-205

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 18 1980	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

deputy  
G. J. P.

Close #2

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

### RECORD OF INFORMATION FURNISHED OTHER AGENCIES

Orally \_\_\_\_\_ By Telephone 8/24/81 Written Communication \_\_\_\_\_  
(date) (date) (date)

**Information concerning:** (Include NARCOTICS MATTERS here and in the TOTAL for "ALL MATTERS" column on Form FD-371.)

**MAJOR FIRE AT NPRC-M**  
**7/12/73**  
**DGP**  
**(OO: SL)**

Information furnished from File, Serial, and Page Number: **52-4856-179, and 52-4856-164**

☐ On \_\_\_\_\_ a continuing disclosure was initiated with  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_ and will be maintained until the conclusion of the investigation.

☐ from informants

☐ from complainants or other sources

Information furnished to: **Detective [REDACTED] DSN.**  
**SLPD Bomb and Arson, SLPD**  
**444-5367**

Number of items disseminated: \_\_\_\_\_

b7C

Remarks: [redacted] requested identity of suspect in captioned matter as a SLPD [redacted] home was burned as result of arson and SLPD informant information indicates that individual responsible for this arson is related to individual responsible for records center fire in 7/73.

2 St. Louis

**1 - 66-2340**

**D- 52-4856**

**AEM**  
**(2)**

SC

**Spectral Agent**

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
AUG 24 1981  
FBI - ST. LOUIS



Complainant Form  
FD-71 (Rev. 8-29-74)

NOTE: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Indices: ☐ Negative ☒ See below

Subject's name and aliases

[Redacted]

Character of case

CR

Complainant

[Redacted]

Complaint received

☒ Personal ☐ Telephonic Date 4-26-82 Time 3:40 PM

Address of subject

Complainant's address and telephone number

[Redacted]

Subject's Description	Race	Sex	Height	Hair	Build	Birth date and Birthplace
	W	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male				
	Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	Weight	Eyes	Complexion	Social Security Number
	Scars, marks or other data					

b7C

Facts of complaint

Complainant advised he has information as to the person who may have been responsible for the fire at the St. Louis Army Personnel Center, St. Louis on 7-12-73. Complainant advised his Army papers were destroyed in this fire and he has subsequently tried to obtain information from the Army. He suspects that he may have been a victim of false experiments by the Army and has tried through the Freedom of Information Act to obtain all information available, so he can discover the truth.

Complainant advised he stumbled upon the fact that Subject is the son of a First Generation West Point Graduate named [Redacted] now a resident of [Redacted] Virginia. Complainant stated [Redacted] is a Second Generation West Point Graduate who was stationed at the St. Louis Army Personnel Center on 7-12-73 at the time of the fire.

Complainant further states in 1957 [Redacted] using the alias [Redacted] was stationed at the La Chappelle Hospital in [Redacted] [Redacted]

Action Recommended

[Redacted]

52-486-207 MAY 1 1982 FBI - ST. LOUIS

working with the Counter Intelligence Corps U.S. Army. Complainant believes that Father and Son may have conspired in a Counter Intelligence move to destroy the St. Louis Army personnel Center Records. Complainant advised he cannot substantiate this information but based on his research he strongly suspects this actually happened.

Complainant furnished a New York Drivers License as follows -

BX [redacted] Manhattan, N.Y. [redacted]

Motorist Ident. # [redacted]

Expires 9-8-84, Dob: [redacted] W/M, 5'6"

b7C

Complainant also furnished a Veterans Administration File Card [redacted] address 415 E. 80th Street.

Newark Indices has no reference to [redacted] and one reference to a [redacted]

[redacted] 3/73 W/M AGE [redacted]

## memorandum

DATE:

5/7/82

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF:

SAC, NEWARK (70-0) (C-9)

SUBJECT:

UNSUB;  
FIRE AT ST. LOUIS ARMY  
PERSONNEL CENTER,  
ST. LOUIS, MO  
7/12/73  
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
CGR

XX

TO: SAC, ST. LOUIS.

Enclosed for information and appropriate action as deemed necessary is a copy of a complaint received at the Newark Office from complainant, [REDACTED]

The Newark Division is not taking any investigative action regarding this matter.

b7C

*[Handwritten note:]*  
[REDACTED] appeared in this office beginning of May 82 and advised he wanted to furnish info concerning who was responsible for fire. He advised investigation closed and he replied that there then was no need to talk to FBI. He advised that should FBI in future want to interview him re fire that we would have to do so on his grounds in presence of his attorney. NO action  
ASW

*[Handwritten:]* B2.

52-4856-208

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 12 1982	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

*[Handwritten:]* 2

2 St. Louis (ENC. 1)

1-Newark

RFG:rsb

(3)

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

